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Grandvrio denies impending closure rumors

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Okawa

Grandvrio Resort Saipan general manager Kazuhisa Okawa has categorically denied rumors that the largest hotel in the CNMI—in terms of number of rooms with 429—will be shutting its doors due to tepid tourism numbers since the COVID-19 pandemic.

He did acknowledge though that the Garapan landmark may be forced to shut down, albeit temporarily, if the Commonwealth's dull tourism industry doesn't change soon.

"I had also heard rumors that our hotel would close, but that is absolutely not the case. However, it is true that the business is struggling due to the sharp decline in tourists since the pandemic, and if the

See GRANDVRIO on Page 4

MARK RABAGO
The 429-room Grandvrio Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Palacios finalizes 902 talks roster

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is in the process of finalizing the list of individuals who will be participating in the upcoming 902 consultations between the CNMI and the United States administration.

Last month, President Biden responded to the CNMI's request to initiate consultations between the governments of the CNMI and the United States pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant to "establish the

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Customs and Biosecurity sees 16 new officers

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Division of Customs and Biosecurity 10th Cycle Academy graduates pose for a photo with CNMI dignitaries following their graduation ceremony last Friday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity held its 10th Cycle Academy graduation last Friday and officially welcomed 16 new Customs officers.

Last Friday, Customs and Biosecurity officially welcomed 16 new officers from its 10th Cycle Academy through a graduation ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

The newly graduated of-

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Archbishop-elect Jimenez holds solemn thanksgiving mass

» **Fr. Charlie Borja appointed apostolic administrator**

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Archbishop-elect Ryan Jimenez of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana, Guam held a solemn thanksgiving mass last Saturday morning at Mt. Carmel Church in Susupe.

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RACQUEL FLOYD
Archbishop-elect of Agana Ryan Jimenez, fifth from left, and newly appointed apostolic administrator Fr. Charlie Borja, fourth from left, pose with rest of the priests of the Archdiocese of Chalan Kanoa during the solemn thanksgiving mass last Saturday morning at Mt. Carmel Church in Susupe.

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RACQUEL FLOYD
Family and friends of Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) pose while holding his banner as they assemble outside the Commonwealth Election Commission office last Tuesday.

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Local

RACQUEL FLOYD
Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) files his candidacy for Saipan Senate last Tuesday morning at Commonwealth Election Commission office.

Castro files candidacy for Saipan Senate

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Rep. Manny Gregorio T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) filed his candidacy for a Senate seat for Saipan under the CNMI Democratic Party last Tuesday morning.

According to Castro, public service has always been his passion from being an employee at Northern Marianas College to his current position as a representative.

"Immediately after completing college in 2008, I returned home, and began my first year of public service as the enrollment manager of NMC, then served as outreach counselor, financial aid counselor, director of admissions/registrar, and director of enrollment services. Working at NMC was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life, we saw the impact we were doing daily, moving mountains and transforming lives."

When asked why he moved from an independent to the Democratic Party for the Nov. 5 general elections, he said, "The truth of the matter is we are all working toward a common goal of improving the CNMI. As President Abraham Lincoln wisely said, 'The best way to predict the future is to create it.' Our community holds immense power to shape the tomorrow we desire. Let's continue to harness that power and build a brighter future for us all."

Among the local bills that Castro has introduced and passed were House Local Bill No. 23-21 for the repair and maintenance of restroom facilities at Susupe Beach Park in Precinct II. This became Saipan Local Law 23-08 on Nov. 30, 2023, and is pending project completion.

Another is House Local Bill No. 23-27, S1 which became Saipan Local Law 20-26 and is pending project completion.

It called for the relocation, construction, and maintenance of two modular 40-foot container restrooms at Sugar Dock Beach in Chalan Kanoa, the installation of streetlights and public address systems in Precinct II recreational areas and roadways, and $15,000 for the Marianas Racing Association.

"Due to the dynamics of the Senate, only my House local bills have passed. Local bills fall under the local legislative delegation and, thus do not go to the Senate," said Castro.

Castro's platforms include compassionate public service by promoting policies that will create jobs, grow paychecks, and improve the economic security of CNMI families, amend the law for real public safety, strengthen the education system, and create a healthier CNMI.

Castro said he's passionate lies in creating healthier communities and believes in innovative legislation that helps individuals and organizations manage their healthcare and health-related needs effectively, efficiently, and affordably.

Castro thanked his fellow coalition candidates, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, his friends, and family for supporting his run for office in the 2024 general elections.

He also said the goal of their island-wide campaign is to reach as many people as they can, not just to share their message, but also to hear the people and understand their situations.

Man faces $10K bail after threatening woman with machete

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court imposed a $10,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly threatened his girlfriend with a machete.

Carl C. Aldan, 27, appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at the Superior Court in Susupe last Friday, where charges of assault, disturbing the peace, and assault with a dangerous weapon were filed against him.

According to court documents, the victim had called the police after Aldan threatened to kill her while swinging a machete close to her face.

A preliminary hearing was set for Aldan on Aug. 14, 2024 at 10am, and an arraignment on Aug. 19, 2024 at 9am, where he will appear with appointed public defense attorney Molly Dennert. Chief prosecutor Chester Hinds will represent the CNMI government. Aldan was remanded back to the custody of the Department of Corrections until his next hearing.

According to court documents on Aug. 6, 2024, at about 5:16am, police officers were dispatched to a reported case of disturbing the peace at an apartment in China Town. At about 5:24am, a police officer was flagged down by a female individual who was crying and carrying a baby, saying "Take him in. He's holding a machete." The female individual was later identified as the victim in the case. The victim informed the officer that her husband, identified as Aldan, pointed a machete at her and that he had drugs. The officer asked her if she knew what type of drugs to which she responded "like crystallized." The officer noticed that the victim was having a hard time talking, as she was breathing fast, shaking and crying, so the officer requested medical assistance for her. Two more police officers later arrived at the scene where they entered the victim's apartment to check on Aldan.

The officer interviewed the vicim and she stated that she woke up around 3:30am, to use the restroom. She stated that when she came out of the restroom, she saw Aldan's cell phone and a black pouch on the table. The victim, curious to know what was inside, opened the black pouch and saw three clear small Ziploc bags with a crystallized substance, cotton balls, and a pipe. The victim also opened up his cell phone and started going through his messages where she saw conversations about money and also about having a one-night stand with a girl. The victim said that she then started scrolling through Aldan's phone and saw a picture of Aldan taking a picture of the content of his case and some messages between him and other people that she believed were probably drug-related. The victim said that Aldan then came out of the bedroom holding a machete with his right hand. He told her "don't look at my stuff, f*** you, I am going to kill you" while swinging the machete toward her. He then hit the chair with the machete, then went into the bedroom and came back out telling her to get in the room.

According to the report, the victim said that while she was in the bedroom sitting down beside her newborn daughter, Aldan sat in front of her and pointed the machete towards her face and said "f*** you, don't touch my stuff." The victim laid down on the bed with her newborn baby in the middle while Aldan was on the other side still holding the machete. She further stated to officers that she waited for Aldan to fall asleep and then called 911. After the call, she grabbed her newborn baby and walked out of the room silently, and waited for police to arrive. The victim stated that she was scared for her life and her daughter.

At about 5:37am, the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services arrived on scene and treated the victim. At around 5:44am, Aldan was arrested by police officers for disturbing the peace, assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and domestic violence. Aldan was transported to Corrections where he was booked and detained.

The victim stated that she and Aldan have been in a relationship for one year and six months, but have only been married for almost a year. During their relationship, Aldan has been verbally, physically, and emotionally abusive and that this was not the first time she has called the police on him.

SOFTWARE MIGRATION NMC

Northern Marianas College vice president of Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, far left, addresses some members of the college's team who are helping to lead the institution's migration of its enterprise resource planning software to an online, cloud-based environment. The software migration aims to build resiliency around the college's data infrastructure and to enhance the student and employee experience for registration, academic advising, financial aid, and other functions.

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NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

PAIMI Advisory Council Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a PAIMI Advisory Council member for a **VOLUNTEER POSITION** for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The PAIMI Advisory Council or PAC is comprised of ten (10) volunteer members who serve one-year terms which consist of four (4) fiscal years. The ideal candidate will have the strong desire to advise the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness. The interested individual must be a person who receive or have received mental health services; who is knowledgeable about issues surrounding individuals with mental illness; a service provider to individuals who receive or have received mental health services; or a family member of individuals who receive or have received mental health services. The Advisory Council responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Approving the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the council
- Electing officers
- Approving membership requirements
- Approving the Council's By-Laws
- Preparing and submitting a report that describes the activities of itself and its assessment of the operations of the Protection & Advocacy System no later than January 1 of each year following the fiscal year
- Advising on policies and priorities of the PAIMI Program
- Reviewing and assessing the operations of the PAIMI Program
- Complying with federal mandated requirements; and
- On an annual basis, assisting in providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the priorities established by, and activities of the Program.

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to NMPASI Executive Director, Gregory Borja, in person at the NMPASI office located at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on the 5th floor in room #505 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Deadline for submission: no later than **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Gregory Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org with any questions and/or concerns.

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

Board of Directors Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for a **VOLUNTEER POSITION** for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eleven (11) volunteer members who serve four-year terms. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote NMPASI mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. The interested individual must be a person with a disability; knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities; a parent/guardian of a person with a disability; or an immediate relative of a person with a mentally impairing disability. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for NMPASI's programs;
- developing and insuring adherence to policies and procedures that establish the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the organization;
- electing officers of the board in accordance with the by-laws;
- approving new members and membership requirements;
- approving, repealing, altering and/or amending by-laws;
- reviewing, approving, amending annual budgets;
- recruiting, hiring, evaluating, and if deemed necessary, terminating and removing the Executive Director or the organization in accordance with established policies and procedures;
- reviewing and approving annual Statement of Goals and Priorities and other reports including, but not limited to regular and special meeting minutes of the Board;
- approving contracts and other instruments of a contractual nature in accordance with established policies and procedures; and
- carrying out all other duties in furtherance of the purposes in accordance with established policies and procedures

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to the Board Secretary, Sherry Pangelinan, and to NMPASI Executive Director, Gregory Borja, in person at the NMPASI office located at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on the 5th floor in room #505 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Deadline for submission: no later than **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Greg Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org with any questions and/or concerns.

CNMI SPJ to host delegate forum on Aug. 17

The CNMI Society of Professional Journalists will host a delegate forum at 1pm on Saturday, Aug. 17.

All five candidates running for CNMI delegate have confirmed their participation—Democrat Edwin K. Propst, Republican Kimberlyn King-Hind, and independent candidates James Rayphand, John Oliver Gonzales, and Liana Hofschneider.

The forum will be streamed live on the CNMI Society of Professional Journalists Facebook page. CNMI SPJ will not host a live audience due to capacity.

The forum will cover national politics, the economy, and the military. The forum will begin with a 1-minute opening statement from each candidate, then will transition to the first category about national politics where everyone will have 2 minutes to respond to the same question. The economy and military rounds will feature questions where each candidate will answer a question for 2 minutes and other candidates can respond for 30 seconds. The forum will end with a 3-minute closing statement from all candidates.

CNMI SPJ encourages a healthy and civil discussion for the community to learn about each candidate. CNMI SPJ was recently re-established after 30 years. Its members represent all local media: *Marianas Variety, Saipan Tribune,* KSPN2 News, KUAM News, and NMI News Service. The Society of Professional Journalists promotes the free flow of information vital to a well-informed citizenry through the daily work of its roughly 6,000 members nationwide. ***(PR)***

JIMENEZ

From page 1

Prior to that Jimenez also celebrated solemn thanksgiving mass in San Jose Parish, Tinian and in the parishes of San Francisco de Borja and San Isidro Labrador, Rota.

During the homily of Jimenez last Saturday, he explained the gospel of St. Lawrence, a martyr who died in the year 258, and how the martyr's faith paved the way for the Christian faith not only of deacons but all of us.

Jimenez said how the saint showed compassion by presenting the poor to the crowd as the church's treasure was inspiring, saying that his life and actions serve as an example for deacons and ordained ministers.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang with community leaders pose with archbishop-elect of Agana Ryan Jimenez during the thanksgiving mass last Saturday morning at Mt. Carmel Church in Susupe.

In his homily, he shared St. Lawrence death's impact as it led to the growth of faith and paved the way for life wherein the death of loved ones reminds us of their immense love for us.

Jimenez then expressed his gratitude to the late bishop Tomas Aguon Camacho for the pontifical vestment he is wearing. This were the same vestment that the late Camacho wore when he ordained him and Fr. Charlie Borja at the same Mt. Carmel Cathedral on June 8, 2003.

The archbishop-elect also mentioned that the late bishop Camacho prepared him for his roles as an administrator, bishop, and now archbishop-elect of Agana.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

902

From page 1

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the U.S.".

As part of his response, Biden officially appointed Carmen G. Cantor, the assistant secretary of the Interior, as his representative for the 902 consultations.

In an interview with Palacios last week, he shared that he is currently in the process of narrowing down who will be joining him in the 902 consultations and is in the process of identifying the date in which to have the 902 talks.

"We're moving forward. We just got communications from staff at the Department of Interior the other day. We're now trying to identify a date. I just have to officially submit the names and we're finalizing that. I'm hoping I can talk to [assistant secretary] Cantor just to catch up. She was out of D.C. and she was in Hawaii for a workshop. I know she's back so we're going to move this forward rapidly," he said.

When asked who would be joining him, Palacios said aside from lawmakers, he has chosen a few people as part of his team.

"From our team it's going to be Mike Sablan from Triple J (who will be handling the technical aspects), then we have Wesley Bogdan who will serve as one of our legal counsels. We will, of course, have other legal counsels looking at other things to make sure everything is running smoothly. Then there will be other technical people from my staff like Tina Sablan, Glenn Hunter, and Frankie Elliptico. Then we have of course the Legislature," he said.

Palacios said he will also be choosing representatives from Tinian and Rota to join the 902 consultations to ensure Tinian and Rota have a voice in the conversation.

"We're going to have someone from Tinian, Phillip [Mendiola-Long] has volunteered. He's a businessman from Tinian. I also have to talk to the delegation of Rota," he said.

"At the end of the day, there's going to be subject areas. The 902 consultations will not be all over the place. We will give our input and then we're going to ask for their perspective and opinions to put it all together," he said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, for this round of consultations, Palacios requested to engage with the U.S. government on three priority issues: 1) direct financial assistance under Section 702 of the Covenant; 2) tourism and transportation infrastructure; and 3) access to skilled labor.

Palacios said the CNMI looks forward to engaging with assistant secretary Cantor and her team in a transparent and candid discussion about these issues and about how they can work collaboratively toward achieving goals that would mutually benefit the CNMI and the federal government

Section 902 of the Covenant provides that the government of the United States and the CNMI will designate special representatives to meet and consider in good faith such issues affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States as may be designated by either government and to make a report and recommendations with respect thereto.

CUSTOMS

From page 1

ficers are Cherylmoana Marie T. Aguon, Nathan U. Asanuma, Darren Jake C. Basto, Shota N, Castro, Steven G. Castro, Alvonny Joseph Peter N. Cepeda, Jane Anne G. Craney, Shaun Christopher F. Iguel, Johannes N. Maratita, Joe W. Miller, Maelyn Matilde C. Naputi, Christian Anthony C. Pangelinan, Edward C. Reyes Jr., Thomas T. Santos, Raynalyn L. Taitano, and Joel Joshua C. Tudela.

Customs and Biosecurity director Jose C. Mafnas, who addressed the graduating class during the graduation ceremony, said that accepting their badge is only beginning of their journey as customs officers.

"Cadets, once you get your badge, it's not over. It's only beginning. Graduates, you've been given all the knowledge and tools to do your duties at the ports. Use it and protect our boarders, our community, our CNMI," he said.

Mafnas said the graduation ceremony celebrates the achievements of Customs' graduates.

"This achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the beginning of their crucial role of safeguarding our borders against infiltration of any dangerous and illicit drug and ensuring our community's safety and security. The graduation of cadets has always been the best part, in my years in customs. When they come in, they know nothing, and now theyre graduating. They are now ready to be out in the field. I want to thank our partners in NMC for making this happen," he said.

Among the attendees of the graduation were local dignitaries like Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Cabinet members, lawmakers, and representatives of the Northern Marianas College.

Palacios, for his part, congratulated the graduates and said the milestone the graduating class has achieved is momentous.

"The role of Customs officers is a crucial one. You are trained to safeguard our Commonwealth. The knowledge that you've acquired in your training empowers you to identify the risks and response to the necessary action to protect public health, our environment, and our economy. As you move forward, remember you're the frontline defenders of our community. You are the gatekeepers," he said.

GRANDVRIO

From page 1

current situation continues, we cannot deny the possibility of a temporary closure," Okawa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Grandvrio Resort Saipan is owned by Route Inn Hotels, which is a hotel chain based in Japan with nearly 400 hotel properties and more than 20,000 employees under its employ.

The 62-year-old Hokkaido native said their mother company has not wavered in its support of its offshore hotel in the CNMI and in fact has promoted it vigorously since after the pandemic.

"Our parent company in Japan is promoting Saipan at 345 chain hotels in Japan, promoting the hotel by participating in tourism expos held in neighboring countries, and providing sales support through sales activities by headquarters staff. In addition, although we have not yet made a large investment in renovations, they are actively responding to the maintenance and renovation of the facilities," he said.

Okawa acknowledged though that despite these efforts, the occupancy of Grandvrio Resort Saipan still has a lot to be desired, even compared to other hotels in the CNMI, who are also struggling.

"We believe this is due to the traditional sales measures we have implemented, mainly for guests from Japan, and we are taking the measures mentioned above."

Okawa said staff numbers at Grandvrio Resort Saipan have also been gradually increasing since the pandemic, but remain low compared to peak times.

Since he arrived on island in March 2024, Grandvrio Resort Saipan has made various efforts not only to attract tourist customers but also local customers as well.

"We are announcing the following discount benefits to local customers on SNS (social network service or social media), and we hope they will use the hotel as a place of relaxation."

- Senior citizen discount 20% restaurant discount
- Government and military 10% restaurant discount
- Local and military accommodation discount $100 + tax
- For every six buffet restaurant customers, 1 person eats for free
- Restaurant customers pay only $5 for pool usage fee instead of $10

As for issues that need to be addressed with the CNMI tourism industry, Okawa said the Marianas Visitors Authority should work with the local and federal government to not only add more flights to the U.S. territory, but also bring down airfare costs.

"I feel the Marianas Visitors Authority is actively working on promoting the island. However, with the number of tourists not recovering, I think that the government and related agencies need to make quick and flexible decisions and quickly resolve the various regulations and issues that are preventing tourists from being attracted."

Okawa also said, "The negative legacy of the casino hotel has a major impact on the negative impression of Saipan, and I feel that it is an issue that needs to be addressed immediately."

Before arriving on Saipan, Okawa worked at Route Inn's property in Ishigakijima in Okinawa so he has some familiarity with Saipan's tropical environment.

"I visited Saipan from March 8 to March 13 to take over from my predecessor, and then officially took up my post on March 22. My previous post was in Ishigakijima, Okinawa so the island's environment and climate are very similar, so it's easy to get used to it. Other than the language barrier of English, I feel no discomfort, the locals are friendly, and I am enjoying life in a wonderful natural environment."

Okawa was appointed general manager of Grandvrio Saipan on March 1, 2024. Prior to that, he was a district manager in charge of multiple hotels in Ishigaki Island (three hotels), Aomori Prefecture (seven hotels), and Southern Hokkaido (four hotels).

Marianas Road Show held in Seoul, Busan

MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority provides updates on the destination to nearly 100 travel trade representatives in Seoul, Korea on Aug. 6, 2024, at the Marianas Road Show.

The Marianas Visitors Authority held its annual Marianas Road Show in South Korea this week, providing updates on the tropical destination to key trade travel representatives in Seoul and Busan.

"The Marianas Road Show is a regular opportunity the MVA provides for travel industry representatives from Seoul and Busan to learn about new products and services in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said MVA Marketing manager Thomas Kim. "We shared in-depth information and actively discuss strategies with these key partners to revitalize the travel market to the Marianas."

The networking event featured presentations from both the MVA and local travel partners, including hotels, resorts, car rentals, attractions, and shopping outlets.

Last Aug. 6 nearly 100 representatives of travel agencies, airlines, and media participated in the show in Seoul, including representatives of 32 travel agencies. The MVA event is receiving news coverage by media outlets including *Korea Travel Times, Global Travel News, TTL News, Travel Daily, Discovery News,* and *Tour Korea News*. The Seoul show was attended by representatives of the U.S. Embassy—senior commercial specialist Jessica Son and commercial officer Haley Sund. The Marianas has daily flights from Seoul to Saipan operated by Jeju Air and T'way.

The Aug. 7 roadshow in Busan also received a strong reception, with approximately 85 attendees, including representatives of 47 travel agencies. Busan is the second largest city in South Korea.

The MVA was joined in promoting the Marianas by several hotels: Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Micronesian Resort Inc., Century Hotel Saipan, and Saipan World Resort. Other tourism partners who joined the show to promote the Marianas were SeaTouch, Skydive Saipan LLC, Avis & Budget Rent a Car, and Mañagaha concessionaire Marianas Global.

The event concluded with a raffle draw, offering prizes including round-trip tickets from Incheon to Saipan donated by Jeju Air and T'way, hotel or resort stays, rounds of golf, and more. ***(PR)***

MVA

Over 80 travel trade representatives from travel agencies, airlines, partners in the Marianas join the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Marianas Road Show in Busan, Korea on Aug. 7, 2024. The road show provides an opportunity for in-depth information sharing on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

MVA

Travel trade representatives from travel agencies, airlines, partners in the Marianas join the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Marianas Road Show in Seoul, Korea on Aug. 6, 2024. The road show provides an opportunity for in-depth information sharing on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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Phone: (670) 433-7676

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:	]	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0304
TEJANI JOLAN A. BARCINAS An Incompetent Person	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	]	
LANI A. BARCINAS Petitioner(s)	]	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by (Name of Petitioner(s)) LANI A. BARCINAS, Petitioner(s), was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition of Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 16th day of August, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. at the Tinian Courthouse or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Jan Christin S. Cabrera
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Attorneys for Petitioner Antonina Banes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THECOMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0176-CV**
SERGEI P. SHCHERBAK, Deceased,	]	**NOTICE OF PETITION TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**
	]	**Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024**
	]	**Time: 10:00 am**
	]	**Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF SERGEI P. SHCHERBAK, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Antonina Banes has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition to Appoint Administrator and for Letters of Administration in the abovecaptioned matter. The attorney of record representing Petitioner is Richard C. Miller of the Law Firm of Banes Horey Berman & Miller, LLC, P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950.

The petition is set for hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at the CNMI Superior Court, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned mater.

Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2024.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its special meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance

PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
PUBLIC COMMENTS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. CDBG-DR Housing Update
b. CDBG-DR Infrastructure Update
DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
EXECUTIVE SESSION
a. Personnel Matters (CD Contract Renewal and CEO Status)
ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2024-010

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 27, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

200-foot Communication Tower for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Project at Mt. Tapochau, Saipan

Project Package will be available on August 02, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **August 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2024-009

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 15, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS) FRANCISCO M. SABLAN (FMS) MIDDLE SCHOOL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Project Package will be available on July 01, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhcgov.net or the CDBG-DR Website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **July 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Presidential debate two-step—The more the merrier

With President Joe Biden now locked in the basement, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris are engaged in a two-step over where and when to debate. The standoff reflects poorly on both campaigns and on the state of American politics.

Trump has appeared in one debate—a June performance on CNN at which the doddering Biden sealed his own fate. Panicked Democrats responded by sending the president to the showers and replacing him with Harris.

Trump and Biden had previously agreed to a second debate on Sept. 10 to be hosted by ABC. Now that Biden is out of the picture, however, Trump has other thoughts. He says he instead wants to debate Harris on Fox News on Sept. 4. The Harris campaign, of course, wants no part of that.

But here's a radical thought. How about both? And how about adding Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to the stage, along with any other candidate who appears on enough state ballots to win the Electoral College?

It is a blight on many modern-day politicians that they cower at the challenge of a potentially hostile audience or questioner. Insisting on only controlled or friendly environments—and embracing a two-party monopoly on the debate process—reveals a lack of intellectual confidence and is the opposite of statesmanship. It is certainly no way to build trust or an accord with voters.

Trump, to his credit, did agree to the Biden debate on CNN, a network not known for regarding the former president with warmth. He also recently spoke at the annual conference of the National Association of Black Journalists, many members of which are openly hostile to his existence. Harris, meanwhile, has been kept on a short lease since Democrats unceremoniously tossed Biden out the back door of the campaign bus.

The Harris campaign accused Trump of "running scared" regarding debates. It's an odd charge from a candidate who hasn't made an unscripted media appearance since being anointed the Democratic standard-bearer.

Trump should gain the upper hand and agree to the Sept. 10 ABC event and then insist on a second debate with Harris on Fox News. If the vice president refuses to attend the latter, it would speak volumes about her courage and mettle. If she's hesitant to answer demanding questions about her record or agenda, she's in the wrong line of work and is ill-prepared to handle the rigors of the toughest job in the world.

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Tim Walz is a regular guy. That's exactly what Harris needs

By PATRICIA LOPEZ
Bloomberg Opinion

Patricia Lopez is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. She is a former member of the editorial board at the Minneapolis Star Tribune*, where she also worked as a senior political editor and reporter.*

Vice President Kamala Harris named Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate, bringing to the ticket a skilled executive with folksy charm who has shown he isn't afraid to embrace policies that lean on the government's ability to improve people's lives.

Walz, 60, is, in many ways, the perfect counterbalance to Harris. He brings deep experience as a governor, House contacts from his six terms as a congressman, and an everyman back story that made him stand out amid the usual elite lawyer candidates.

With a single word—"weird"—Walz pulled off something few candidates for the job have ever done. He reframed the entire Democratic message. Gone was the casting of Donald Trump as some dark lord threatening democracy. Instead, Walz tried an old schoolyard tactic[—casting the bully and his gang as weirdos. The taunt shrank Trump, putting him in a new and mocking light.

Social media lit up, interview requests poured in, and before long, weird became the word on every Democrat's lips.

But Walz brings far more than quips. He has a strength that Harris is wise to tap: a strong record of accomplishments that proves to voters that he can deliver.

More importantly for Harris, Walz knows how to sell that message in a way that resonates with Middle America—and across the country. Democrats too often have been cowed by Republican attacks, too fearful to fully own their agenda, whether the issue was reproductive rights, climate change, or curbing tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations.

Walz takes a different approach. "It's not about banking political capital for the next election," he said after signing several pieces of historic legislation last year. "It's about burning political capital to improve lives."

In a recent CNN interview, Jake Tapper noted that under Walz, Minnesota had legalized recreational marijuana, passed background checks on guns, expanded LGBTQ protections, implemented tuition-free college for low-income Minnesotans and approved universal free breakfast and lunch for school kids. Would that record be an asset, Tapper asked, or just allow Trump to label Walz another big government liberal?

It was the type of question that has left many Democrats stammering. Walz just grinned. "What a monster!" he said. "Kids are eating and having full bellies so they can learn, and women are making their own health care decisions… And we're a top-five business state. … I'm more than happy to take the label."

Since Walz began bombarding the airwaves, something in him seems to have touched voters weary of the bombastic negativity and policy-free gibberish that has marked Trump's time on the national stage. They see themselves in him — a guy who wears a suit when he has to but otherwise pops on a ball cap to cover his balding head, dons a worn Carhartt jacket (it's a Midwest thing) over a flannel shirt, and gets to work. The honeymoon may not last, but for now, his fans have flooded social media with humorous variations on the America's Dad theme, with one speculating that Walz would start his VP interview answering national security questions and end it wearing a headlamp as he fixed the wiring in the White House attic.

Walz talks, acts and dresses like a regular guy because he is a regular guy. I've covered him since he first ran for Congress in 2006, fresh out of the classroom at Mankato West High School. Fast-talking, idealistic and excitable, he managed to unseat a longtime Republican incumbent and flip the district from red to blue. Preaching a message of "One Minnesota" that blurred perceived divisions between urban and rural, he rose to governor and was reelected.

He grew up in a town in Nebraska that was so small his graduating class had 25 students. Soon after high school, he enlisted in the Army National Guard, working in heavy artillery and retiring after 24 years, having reached the rank of command sergeant major.

Walz is the son of a teacher who became a teacher and married a teacher. While Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance pushes private vouchers, Walz is steeped in the ethic of public schools and knows that schools are the lifeblood of a community, especially in rural America.

When he was still in high school, Walz's father was diagnosed with lung cancer and died soon after. The governor recalls his family's struggle to get by on survivor benefits and the years it took his mother to pay off the medical debt that insurance didn't cover.

All of this combined to make Walz someone who makes no apologies for the government's ability to level the playing field for the average American and those down on their luck. He will bring vulnerabilities, too, as would any running mate. He'll be expected to justify his strict handling of the pandemic and his

See TIM Walz on Page 7

A Trump victory would mean transition chaos

If a business school student had designed the U.S. presidential transition process as an assignment, they would have failed the class. Why? The current system creates a nearly impossible task for a newly elected candidate.

In fewer than 75 days, the president-elect needs to appoint hundreds of White House staffers, select a cabinet and fill more than 4,000 politically appointed positions. The new administration needs to quickly prepare a budget and engage allies. No business would ever run a changeover of chief executives like this, and no other country follows a similarly flawed process, either.

The way a candidate prepares for a presidential transition is a good indicator of how competently he or she will govern. It is therefore hugely irresponsible that former President Donald Trump has not appointed a transition director or team to prepare for his presidency should he be elected again, nor has he publicly communicated his plans to do so. By this time four years ago, the Biden-Harris ticket had not only appointed transition leaders but had several hundred people working full time on planning.

The 4,000 jobs that need filling are political positions, as opposed to civil service posts, which don't change with each new administration. They run across every department and agency and at every level: from the secretary of state down to the person who puts together the briefing books for the secretary of state.

Believe it or not, changeover planning has actually improved since 1963, when Congress passed the Presidential Transition Act. In recent years, candidates have typically appointed transition staffers in the spring of an election year, vetted candidates for appointments, planned legislative priorities, and even obtained security clearances for national-security appointees. Federal funds, government office space and technology will be available for both candidates' transition teams in the next few weeks.

The gold standard for presidential transitions occurred in 2008, when President George W. Bush was in his final year of office. Recall that Bush himself had experienced a very short transition after the 2000 election — only 35 days—because of the Florida recount. Months later, when terrorists struck the Twin Towers and Pentagon, he had only half of his national security team in place at key agencies.

With this searing experience, Bush in 2008 instructed his White House chief of staff, Joshua Bolten, to roll out the red carpet for the next president, regardless of party. Bolten worked closely with both the John McCain and Barack Obama teams, and instructed federal agencies on how to be ready for a new president.

Bush's decision turned out to be prescient: By the time of the election, the US faced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Bipartisan cooperation between the outgoing administration and the incoming Obama team helped save the auto industry, secure emergency legislation and reassure financial markets that a recovery plan was underway.

Conversely, Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton had poorly planned transitions, albeit for distinct reasons. Carter was the first candidate to allocate funds and resources to transition planning, but he did not tell his campaign staffers about the preparation effort, causing a post-election clash. Clinton, meanwhile, moved too slowly because he did not want to be seen as "measuring the drapes" before he had won. Both men later admitted that poor transition planning set back their first years.

Not surprisingly, Trump's moves in and out of office were the most chaotic in modern history. This wasn't because of poor staffing, however, but because Trump personally impeded both processes. In May 2016, Trump appointed former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to run his transition. Christie organized a serious and effective effort, but was fired days after the election. The result was pure chaos. One year into his tenure, Trump had filled only a quarter of the 1,250 jobs needing Senate confirmation, the lowest in modern history, hampering the effective management of the government.

Trump's outgoing transition was also marred by dysfunction—again because of his behavior. During the run-up to the 2020 election, Trump's then-deputy chief of staff, Chris Liddell, rightly followed Josh Bolten's 2008 playbook. Despite Liddell's good work, Trump delayed things for weeks by preventing agency officials from cooperating with the incoming Biden team. For example, the president-elect's staffers were precluded from talking with government health experts on the distribution of the newly developed Covid vaccine.

By DAVID MARCHICK
Bloomberg Opinion

David Marchick is dean of the Kogod School of Business at American University and is the co-author of The Peaceful Transfer of Power: An Oral History of Presidential Transitions.

This time around, the fact that Trump has not organized a transition planning team could make him largely dependent on two outside groups: the America First Transition Project and the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. (While Trump has distanced himself from Project 2025, Heritage has said it continues to focus on personnel issues.) This runs against best practice, which dictates that a candidate has his or her own staff to review and vet potential White House and agency officials. Yes, the campaign can take input from partisan (and nonpartisan) organizations and interest groups, but transition staffers still need to make independent judgments on competing priorities. You can't outsource personnel.

Vice President Kamala Harris, if she wins, can in part look to the experience of George H.W. Bush, the last vice president to take the White House. Bush organized a relatively small external transition-planning effort while he campaigned to succeed President Ronald Reagan. While Harris's case is different because she was thrust into the race at such a late hour, she would still have the advantage of being able to govern with a mix of new leaders and existing Biden appointees. She has the advantage of an experienced staff and the White House personnel operation, and can and should quickly communicate that transition planning is underway.

Regardless of partisan preferences, all Americans benefit from thorough transition planning. History shows a high correlation between effective changeovers and effective presidencies—and vice versa. Trump's lack of planning suggests that if he wins, even greater governing chaos will follow.

Olympic boxer's gender is a manufactured controversy

When Italian boxer Angela Carini reported that she had "never felt a punch like that" after conceding to Algeria's Imane Khelif 46 seconds after their Olympic match began, social media exploded with accusations. Elon Musk and J.K. Rowling chimed in, accusing Khelif of being a man posing as a woman to cheat.

The case highlights what's wrong with Musk, Rowling and others who think of themselves as bravely opposing excess political correctness. They're too in love with their own assumptions and superficial judgments. Khelif's jawline and strong torso may look stereotypically masculine, but biological sex is about more than looks—and is sometimes more complex than chromosomes.

Consider Jeffrey Eugenides' Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Middlesex, in which a Greek-American girl named Callie grows up as a pretty, happy child until, as a teenager, her height shoots up and she develops a mustache. As a teen, Callie isn't sure if she's a boy or a girl, and the girl who loves her isn't sure if she's gay or straight. At first, their love transcends those identity concerns. I read the book years ago, but it's hard to forget a story like that.

Eugenides wasn't taking poetic license. The character is based on the author's meticulous study of a real genetic disorder called 5-alpha-reductase deficiency, which is rare, but somewhat more common in a few parts of the world including Greece and the Dominican Republic.

5-alpha-reductase is an enzyme that's necessary in the chain of molecular level events leading male embryos—those with a Y chromosome—to grow a penis. The disorder can lead to genetically male (XY) babies emerging into the world looking female and being classified as girls.

Two-time 800-meter running champion Castor Semenya reportedly has a Y chromosome and 5-alpha-reductase deficiency, which has led to endless controversy about her eligibility to compete in women's events.

Khelif was disqualified from a 2023 championship event based on a sex test of undisclosed nature, but the International Olympic Committee says she meets their criteria. Some reports say she was disqualified for having a Y chromosome, others because her testosterone level is above a particular threshold.

I don't want to speculate on which it was, but suffice it to say there are a number of ways an XY individual might develop what looks like female genitalia, or an XX individual might have male-like testosterone-levels.

Our system of sex determination isn't simple. Different animals use other kinds of sex chromosomes—in birds, the females are ZW and males are ZZ, while in some amphibians and reptiles, there are no genetic differences between the sexes and temperature at a critical stage in egg development determines sex. The duck-billed platypus uses a system of 10 sex chromosomes.

Humans use a system of XX for female and XY for male. Embryos all start out with a sort of starter kit for the reproductive parts for both sexes, and a series of activated genes and hormonal surges usually steers things in one direction or the other. Usually, but not always.

A number of genetic mutations can interfere with different stages of that process, leading to differences of sexual development (DSD)—in anywhere from 1,000 to 4,500 live births. (That makes such sex differences vastly more common than going to the Olympics.) And some babies develop from two early embryos that merged; if those embryos were opposite sex, the baby might have a combination of male and female traits.

By F.D. FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

F.D. Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the "Follow the Science" podcast.

Among Olympians, it's more likely we would see people with unusual physical traits. The Olympics and other elite sporting events select for extreme body types—people who are unusually strong, incredibly tall, or short but extremely powerful. They may be wildly fast or insanely flexible, not to mention extraordinarily determined and capable of overcoming pain. Women's bodies normally produce testosterone—some more than others—and certain sports likely favor those with a higher level.

This Olympic flap comes at a time of confusion and disagreement about the nature of sex and gender. But there's no excuse for bullying or aiming cheating accusations at athletes who don't conform to expectations. Things are not always what they appear on the surface. If the current rules allowed Imane Khelif to compete, then she deserves her medals and the world's admiration.

TIM WALZ

From page 6

decisions around using National Guard troops during the George Floyd protests. Republicans in Minnesota have been honing their talking points against him for years.

Harris, for her part, has yet to define her vision for the country. That's understandable, given that she is only two weeks into her candidacy. However, Walz's selection may provide a bit of a roadmap.

Republicans are skilled at casting Democratic priorities such as affordable health insurance, child care, paid family leave and higher minimum wages as evidence of a nanny state. Minnesota stands in contrast, having enacted many of those goals and still ranking as one of the top states for business. That's no accident. From its airport and roads to its workforce, businesses know that Minnesota under Walz has invested in itself and its people. It has become a haven for women seeking reproductive freedom while its neighbors have enacted strict abortion bans. While other states are banning books, Minnesota banned the book bans. Paid family leave isn't a pipe dream in Minnesota, it's the law, beginning in 2026. With only a one-vote majority in the Minnesota Senate, it took strong, unwavering support by Walz and other Democratic leaders to turn those ideas into law.

Michael Brodkorb, a former Republican operative turned podcaster, said recently of Walz that "it's part of his political DNA to be able to soften up his critics, win over people, and win in Republican areas." That could prove critical for Harris as she fortifies the blue wall states, particularly Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Minnesota, which Trump has vowed to flip.

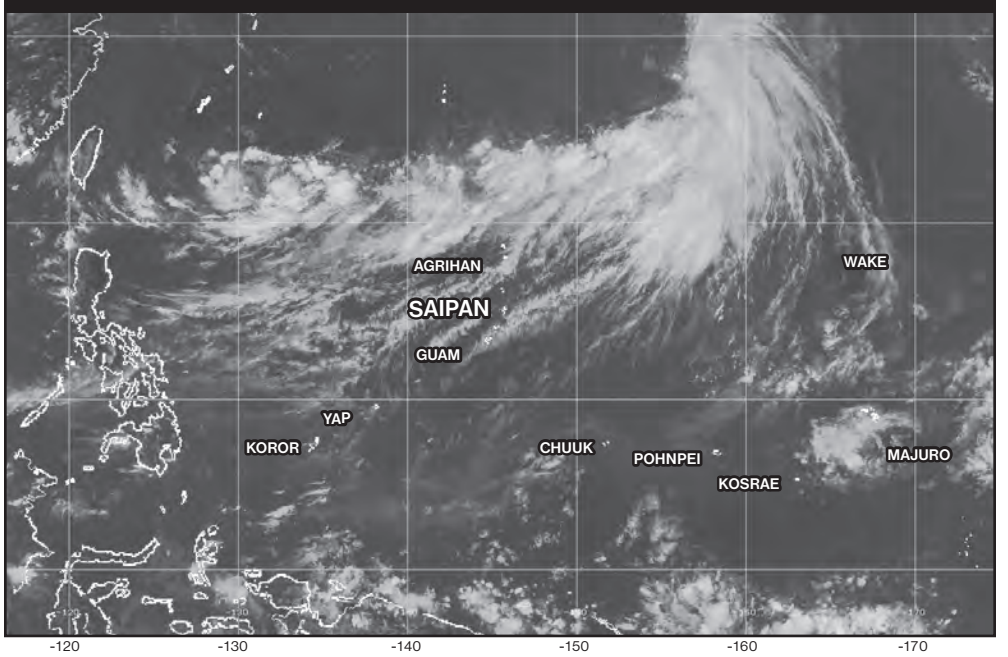
The choice should be clear now between Trump's dystopian version of America as a terrible place with rigged institutions and a weak democracy and a Harris-Walz ticket intent on building a new definition of freedom and fairness that embraces this country's diversity, strives for equity and leaves out no one.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
87º 81º	89º 80º	87º 80º	86º 80º	86º 80º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:07 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light south to southwest winds and ample low-level moisture look to bring another round of island-effect showers and thunderstorms this afternoon. Models have increased potential for showers tonight over the CNMI due to an increased surface convergence. Decided to put low-end scattered showers for the CNMI for tonight. Otherwise, the rest of the forecast remains on track.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:55 AM	11:30 PM	-
Tuesday	12:47 PM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:14 AM	1:43 PM
Thursday	-	1:03 AM	2:41 PM
Friday	-	1:59 AM	3:41 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Showers	81° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	88° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 72°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:02 AM	Low Tide	0.57
1:29 PM	High Tide	1.52
6:36 PM	Low Tide	1.19
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Navy, GovGuam conduct successful joint emergency response exercise

NAVAL BASE GUAM— The U.S. Navy and the Government of Guam successfully completed a joint exercise testing the response efforts of the Transportation Emergency Response Team last Aug. 2. The exercise, simulating a transportation incident involving a material shipment was held at Polaris Point, U.S. Naval Base Guam.

US NAVY

A Guam Fire Department firefighter updates a white board during a joint exercise between the U.S. Navy and Government of Guam onboard Naval Base Guam, Aug. 2, 2024.

US NAVY

Personnel assigned to the Guam National Guard 94th Civil Support Team (CST) prepare to use a field survey meter during a joint exercise between the U.S. Navy and Government of Guam onboard Naval Base Guam, Aug. 2, 2024.

The TERT is an integral part of the Navy's Radiological Emergency Response Organization, which conducts exercises supporting the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. All Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program activities, both shipboard and ashore, have plans in place that define program responses to a wide range of emergency situations. These plans are regularly exercised to ensure that proficiency is maintained. These exercises consistently demonstrate that program personnel are well prepared to respond to emergencies regardless of location. Actions are taken to continually evaluate and improve emergency preparedness at all program activities.

This particular exercise provided an invaluable opportunity to practice essential skills, improve communication and coordination with local partners, and build stronger collaborative efforts among the participating organizations.

"This exercise gave us a chance to rehearse and refine our comprehensive response to contingencies or emergencies," said Rear Adm. Brent DeVore, commander, Joint Region Marianas. "Additionally, it cemented the positive relationship between the Navy and the Government of Guam. By working together and practicing with our partners, we ensure the best possible readiness in the event of a transportation incident. We look forward to conducting more exercises together, fostering collaboration and trust, and building those partnerships for the good of our Navy, our government counterparts and the people of Guam."

Among the organizations that teamed up with the Navy were the Guam Department of Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, Guam Fire Department, Guam Police Department, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Emergency Medical Services, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Army National Guard 94th Civil Support Team, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, and Guam Regional Medical City.

"The partnership between the Navy and GovGuam agencies is crucial for effective emergency response," said Ms. Esther Aguigui, Guam Homeland Security Advisor. "These exercises allow us to learn from each other, strengthen our collaboration, and maintain our readiness. We will continue to work with the Navy and our partners to ensure our community's safety and well-being."

These emergency exercises are meticulously designed to simulate real conditions as closely as possible, offering a realistic environment to evaluate and enhance response strategies. The TERT, along with its partners, demonstrated remarkable teamwork and efficiency throughout the exercise.

This exercise underscored the importance of readiness and the robust partnerships that are vital to ensuring the safety and security of both the military and civilian populations. The success of this joint exercise highlights our continued commitment to emergency preparedness and effective collaboration between the U.S. Navy and the Government of Guam.

For more information, contact CSS15 public affairs officer, Lt. James Caliva at (671) 343-4280 or via email at james.caliva.mil@us.navy.mil. ***(PR)***

US NAVY

Capt. Roy Siongco, Guam Fire Department, left, Battalion Chief Frank Diego, Guam Fire Department, center, and Rear Adm. Brent DeVore, commander, Joint Region Marianas, communicate during a joint exercise between the U.S. Navy and Government of Guam onboard Naval Base Guam, Aug. 2, 2024.

US NAVY

Battalion Chief Frank Diego, Guam Fire Department, left, and Capt. Michael Thompson, commanding officer of the Emory S. Land-class submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40), communicate during a joint exercise between the U.S. Navy and Government of Guam onboard Naval Base Guam, Aug. 2, 2024.

18 GCC students joins Metallica Scholars Initiative

MANGILAO, Guam— Guam Community College has announced its selection as one of 18 nationwide recipients this year to join the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative.

This honor comes as part of the largest expansion of the initiative to date, supported by a generous $75,000 grant aimed at enhancing the GCC work-ready ship repair boot camps for marine construction trades that are in high demand in Guam's ship repair industry, which supports the U.S. Navy's mission the Pacific region.

GCC is the first college in a United States territory to be awarded the scholarship.

"Guam Community College is excited to be part of the Metallica Scholars Initiative which will support our growing ship repair program, one of the most in demand trades in our region," according to GCC president Dr. Mary Okada. "Strong partnerships have always been the hallmark of GCC's success, and we are excited to be working with MSI to advance our training capacity."

Launched in 2019 by All Within My Hands in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges, MSI began with 10 colleges and primarily manufacturing programs. With steady development by creative and dedicated leadership, MSI offers diverse workforce opportunities for students interested in gaining the skills and training necessary to find meaningful and well-paying careers. Additional curricula will include construction, health care, and engineering, contributing to 30 fields of study offered within the Initiative. To date, AWMH has invested over $10.5M in the American workforce, reaffirming a commitment to career and technical education at the local level.

James "Papa Het" Hetfield, Metallica's lead vocalist and guitarist, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative's growth: "When we launched the Metallica Scholars Initiative, it really spoke to me. A collective goal of breaking the stigma of trade skills. Trade skills are vital to society, and what's even more important is to support the many folks who are trying to create a career by learning and using these skills. I am so proud—we all are—to see how this program is changing lives by providing much-needed resources to empower students, and it's great that we're able to make our biggest grant yet to support these students and the future workforce. We are reaching even further for year six of the Metallica Scholars Initiative. This year, our program will be in 60 schools in all 50 states! All thanks to your support."

"I am happy to congratulate the newest Metallica Scholarship Initiative colleges. The sustained investment in workforce education by the All Within Mv Hands Foundation has benefitted thousands of community college students, said Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC. "This work helps to advance skills education and the nation's workforce pipeline. We are honored to continue this partnership to provide critical resources that eliminate barriers for students to participate in skills education programs that lead to family-sustaining wage careers."

By the end of year six, MSI estimates that it will have helped more than 8,000 students with a wide range of backgrounds and ages gain skills to assist in finding meaningful jobs and careers. Metallica Scholars are often considered non-traditional students, as many have families they support or are the first in their families to pursue a college education. AWMH and AACC aim to connect students to skill-building opportunities and bridge the talent needs of the American workforce, all while utilizing the community college system, which is the most affordable, flexible, and industry-relevant applied-learning training provider in the country.

"Metallica, through their foundation, is changing how people view and engage with the trades in this country, and it is working," stated Peter Delgrosso, executive director of All Within My Hands. "Metallica Scholars are diverse, motivated, and ambitious, and we are here to help them reach their goals. I am so proud and honored to be able to announce entrance into all 50 states as this is a significant milestone for not only our foundation but the incredible community we have helped foster and connect."

For a complete list of all 60 colleges currently supported by AWMH, visitauwuninmvnanes.or2/melauica-scnolars.

About Guam Community College

Guam Community College is a regional leader in career and technical workforce development, offering a bachelor degree program, 24 associate degrees, 17 certificate programs, and a robust work ready boot camp program managed by its Continuing Education and Workforce Development office.

About All Within My Hands

All Within My Hands is a non-profit, philanthropic organization created by Metallica and dedicated to creating sustainable communities by supporting workforce education, the fight against hunger, and other critical local services. Since its inception, AWMH has raised over $15 million, providing significant grants to career and technical education programs, combatting food insecurity, and aiding disaster relief efforts.

The American Association of Community Colleges is the voice of the nation's community colleges, delivering educational and economic opportunity for more than 10 million diverse students. AACC advocates for community colleges to ensure they have the resources needed to increase economic mobility for all. ***(PR)***

Business

Tracy Guerrero appointed AK Saipan GM

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, announced changes to its most senior leadership roles in Guam and Saipan.

Clark Boswell has been appointed to lead the business as general manager and vice president of AK Guam and Saipan, effective Aug. 9, 2024. Alex Yap, who is based in Guam and held the title of president of Atkins Kroll, has been appointed to lead the Inchcape Philippines business and will be based in the Philippines. Yap will continue to be part of Inchcape's South Asia and Pacific leadership team.

Guerrero

AK also announced that Tracy Guerrero has been appointed to lead the Saipan business and will serve as general manager for Atkins Kroll Saipan. In this role, she continues to oversee the rental operations in Guam and will report to Boswell.

"This leadership succession at Atkins Kroll is a testament to the robust talent development and leadership bench strength across the Inchcape South Asia and Pacific region," said Alex Hammett, managing director of South Asia and Pacific. "Since 2022, Alex Yap transformed the AK business into one that is customer-centric and where talents are being developed. Alex also led the digitalization agenda to raise efficiency and productivity. His appointment to lead Inchcape's Philippines business is a strong recognition of his capabilities."

Hammett added, "The progression of Clark Boswell and Tracy Guerrero into their new roles is also a recognition of their leadership capabilities and stems from our commitment to develop our people so that they can grow with us."

"I am very honored to lead Guam's oldest corporation and the amazing people in Guam and Saipan," said Boswell. "As we celebrate our 110th-anniversary milestone this year, we recognize that our success is rooted in our communities and is why we are committed to providing the best quality products, services, and experiences to our customers and partners for future decades to come."

Boswell has been AK Saipan general manager since October 2023 and from July 2018 to February 2021. He joined the organization in 2014 and held senior positions throughout the business in Guam and Saipan. Boswell was senior manager of Operational Excellence for Inchcape APAC from 2022 to 2023 where he led the business integration with Inchcape APAC's merger and acquisitions initiatives in Philippines and Indonesia. He managed the region's digital platform program which launched full omnichannel sales platform for Singapore and Hong Kong Toyota.

Boswell

Guerrero began her role on Aug. 9 and will be based on Saipan. Guerrero joined Atkins Kroll in 2022 as operations director in Guam overseeing facilities, capital improvement projects, and rental operations. Guerrero has been instrumental in transforming the rental operations in Micronesia since AK's acquisition of Avis, Budget, and Payless Rent a Car. She will be integral to the opening of the new AK Saipan Toyota and Lexus Dealership in Puerto Rico, Saipan scheduled for later this year.

Guerrero is a very familiar face to Saipan. She previously served as corporate controller for Triple J Saipan and as chief financial officer for Northern Marianas College. She is a board member for Make a Wish Guam and CNMI.

"I am very happy to return home and serve my friends and families in the NMI," said Guerrero. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me, and I am excited to lead the AK Saipan business forward."

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia, enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and is celebrating its 110th anniversary in 2024. The company represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent-A-Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Car, and AC Delco brands. In December 2021 Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks, and Thomas Built Buses. Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Atkins Kroll is part of the Inchcape South Asia & Pacific cluster alongside the growth markets of Brunei, Philippines, and Thailand. ***(PR)***

LeoPalace Resort Guam announces von Rumohr as general manager

YONA, Guam—LeoPalace Resort Guam is pleased to announce the appointment of Schack von Rumohr as its new general manager, effective July 29, 2024.

von Rumohr

He brings over 30 years of experience in hospitality management and a proven track record of success in leading luxury resort operations. His extensive expertise and leadership skills will be a valuable asset to the resort and its team.

Before joining LeoPalace Resort Guam, von Rumohr held various leadership roles, including director of F&B, director of Operations, and general manager at prestigious companies such as Hyatt, Sheraton, Starwood, and Marriott. He has worked in resorts and urban hotels across Europe, the Caribbean, and the United States.

"I 'am incredibly excited to join the LeoPalace team and take on the role of general manager," said von Rumohr. "LeoPalace Resort Guam has a strong reputation for providing exceptional hospitality experiences, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of this beautiful resort.

"What excites me the most is the chance to work with a talented and dedicated team. I look forward to collaborating with the staff to deliver outstanding service and create memorable experiences for our guests. Drawing on my years of experience in the hospitality industry, I am eager to bring fresh ideas and strategies to enhance the guest experience and drive the resort's growth and success."

LeoPalace management and staff warmly welcome and support von Rumohr in his new role. ***(PR)***

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli airstrike on a Gaza school used as a shelter kills at least 80, Palestinian officials say

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza early Saturday, killing at least 80 people and wounding nearly 50 others, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest attacks of the 10-month Israel-Hamas war. A witness said it struck during prayers at a mosque in the building. It was the latest of what the U.N. human rights office called "systematic attacks on schools" by Israel, with at least 21 since July 4 leaving hundreds dead, including women and children. "For many, schools are the last resort to find some shelter," it said after Saturday's attack. The Israeli military acknowledged it targeted the Tabeen school in central Gaza City, saying it hit a Hamas command center in a mosque in its compound and killed 19 Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters. Izzat al-Rishq, a top Hamas official, denied there were militants in the school. Israel's military also disputed the toll, saying the "precise munitions" used "cannot cause the amount of damage that is being reported" by the Hamas-run government. It said the steps it took to limit the risk to civilians included the use of a "small warhead," aerial surveillance and intelligence information. Walls were blown out on the ground level of the large building. Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay on the blood-soaked floor. Bodies, some in bloodstained shrouds, were placed shoulder to shoulder in makeshift graves, making room for more. Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that it received 70 bodies along with the body parts of at least 10 others. Gaza's Health Ministry said that another 47 people were wounded. "We received some of the most serious injuries we encountered during the war," he said, with many wounded having limbs amputated and some with severe burns. The strike hit without warning before sunrise as people prayed, according to witness Abu Anas.

Rescuers retrieve remains of all 62 passengers in Brazil plane crash.

VINHEDO, Brazil (AP)—Brazilian rescue teams Saturday retrieved the remains of all 62 passengers from the wreckage of a plane crash in Sao Paulo state as families started gathering in the metropolis to identify and bury their loved ones. Local airline Voepass' plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 58 passengers and four crew members, when it went down in the city of Vinhedo. Initially, the company said its plane had 62 passengers, then it revised the number to 61 and early on Saturday it raised the figure once again after it found a passenger named Constantino Thé Maia was not on its original list. Voepass also said three passengers who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan documents and one had Portuguese. Sao Paulo state government said in a statement that rescue operations finished at 6:30 p.m. local time, with the identification of the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot by forensics experts. There were 34 male and 28 female bodies in the wreckage, the government said. Earlier, Maycon Cristo, a spokesman for the local fire department, told journalists in Vinhedo that a winch was used to remove parts of the plane from the ground.

Japan's Kishida cancels Asia trip after scientists urge preparations for a possible 'megaquake'

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida canceled a planned trip to Central Asia on Friday to lead the government's response after scientists urged people to prepare for a possible "megaquake" off the country's southern coast. The Japan Meteorological Agency issued its first ever "megaquake advisory" on Thursday warning of a possible future major earthquake triggered by the underwater Nankai Trough, after a magnitude 7.1 quake shook just off the eastern coast of Kyushu island earlier in the day. The trough, which runs along Japan's Pacific coast, was the source of past devastating earthquakes. Seismologists at the agency held an emergency meeting after Thursday's quake to analyze whether it had affected the nearby trough and reassessed the risk of a major quake. They urged people to observe high caution levels for about a week. Thursday's quake injured 16 people, most of them slightly, and caused no major damage. Tsunami advisories were issued for several areas but lifted hours later. Kishida announced that he had canceled his planned Aug. 9-12 trip to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia as a result of the advisory. "I have decided to stay in the country at least for about a week to make sure that government measures and communication are fully in place," Kishida said. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency instructed 707 municipalities designated as at risk from a Nankai Trough quake to review their disaster response measures and evacuation plans.

PH military says Chinese air force jets endangered its patrol plane with flares, risky moves

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military chief condemned Saturday what he said was the provocative actions of two Chinese air force aircraft that executed a dangerous maneuver and dropped flares in the path of a Philippine air force plane on routine patrol in the South China Sea. All those aboard the Philippine air force NC-212i light transport plane were unharmed and returned safely to Clark Air Base north of Manila after Thursday morning's incident over the Scarborough Shoal, Gen. Romeo Brawner said, without providing other details. A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press that the Chinese jets flew at a "very close distance" to the Philippine air force turbo-prop plane and "put the lives of our pilots in real risk and danger." Another security officer said at least eight flares came from the Chinese fighter jets. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the incident. The Southern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army said in a statement Saturday that a Philippine Air Force aircraft on Thursday had "illegally" entered the airspace above Huangyan Island—the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal, which China claims—and disrupted its training activities. The command sent jets and ships to identify, track and drive away the Philippine aircraft, the statement added.

Life & Style

‘It’s Not That Serious, Par!’ tickles the crowd

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD

“It’s Not That Serious, Par!” performers, from left, Chainaman, podcasters Zori Talks, NettyCee, PalmTrio670 owners, and Guam Funny Memes’ Gene Castro and Songi Sessions pose for a group photo after their successful show last Saturday at Royal Taga Hall Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The “It’s Not That Serious, Par!” comedy show seriously brought down the house with laughter last Saturday night at a packed Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

After the success of the SoMe Awards, the island’s first social media awards last February, PalmTrio670 staged a comedy show that featured podcaster Zori Talks, local comedian Chainaman, and Content Creator 2024 SoMe awardee NettyCee. The show was hosted by Guam’s Funny Memes’ Gene Castro and Songi Sessions, who flew in from Guam just for the show.

Tickets were sold at $30 each and 400 tickets were sold, according to Jefferson Mateo, co-owner of PalmTrio 670. Doors opened at 6pm and the show started past 7pm, opened by Guam Funny Meme and Songi Sessions.

It was followed by a funny video bromance and skit of SoMe 2024 Podcast of Year awardee Zori Talks. The duo is known for their good positivity, local boys that bring island vibes and just talk about whatever they want to talk about.

Saipan digital influencer, rapper, and foodie comedienne, NetteCee, started her part of the show with a song number. Her performance showed that in general, life can be too much but turning it into comedy, rather than crying about problems might just be the trick.

Bakaden The Illusionist then performed an intermission number where he juggled and balanced blocks while dancing to an upbeat music. He was followed by a dance number by youth group called Profound Bandits.

The last part of the show was by local comedian Chainaman. He mentioned during the press conference last Thursday that he was happy to be part of the show because normally his performance is the opening act. From the opening of his set, the crowd was raucously laughing until the end of his set.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Local comedian Chainaman was the final act during last Saturday’s “It’s Not That Serious, Par!” comedy show at Royal Taga Hall Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The show ended at 10:30pm, and according to Mateo, they received a lot of good feedback that has encouraged them to make another show, and perhaps the same show in Guam.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Zori Talks performs during last Saturday’s “It’s Not That Serious, Par!” comedy show at Royal Taga Hall Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Guam Funny Memes’ Gene Castro and Songi Sessions were the host of the “It’s Not That Srious, Par!” comedy show last Saturday at Royal Taga Hall Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

RACQUEL FLOYD

SoMe 2024 Content Creator of the Year awardee NettyCee performs during last Saturday’s “It’s Not That Serious, Par!” comedy show at Royal Taga Hall Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Longtime girlfriend has never met partner’s son

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for many years and have a partner. “Andy” is a widower whose wife died 20 years ago. We have been a couple for 13 years, although we don’t live together.

My son is 30, and his partner is 40. Both have their own families and busy lives. I met Andy while my son still lived at home, so he has never spent the night here. My elderly mother lives with me, so it’s easier that I stay over at Andy’s place. We talk most nights for an hour or so on the phone.

My issue is: Although Andy knows my extended family, and while I know his son’s story, I have never met his son. When I asked about it once, he said it was for “privacy” reasons and that his previous girlfriend never met his son either. I find this really odd. My son doesn’t like Andy because of this. I don’t understand it, but I can live with it. What is your take on it, please?

MYSTIFIED IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR MYSTIFIED: My take is that, after 13 years, in the normal course of things, you should have met Andy’s son. There must be a reason why your partner is keeping you and his son apart. People who are this concerned with privacy usually have secrets they are guarding. Finding out the reason for this is more important than your meeting his son.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I will no longer spend time with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law. This is because of their decades of lying, manipulation and lack of interest in anything that doesn’t suit them. (I will tolerate them at weddings, funerals, etc.)

My husband understands my decision and that I would never prevent him from spending time with them, but I won’t accompany him. I understand this may put him in a difficult position, but while I feel bad for him, I won’t change my position.

Abby, we need a good explanation about why I am absent. I don’t want him to lie by saying I had other plans or I’m not feeling well, but I also don’t want him to say that I despise them and refuse to be in the same room with them. I’m taking the stand that everyone else in the family would like to take but won’t, since they all have enabled this bad behavior all these years. I’m the first to declare that I’ve had enough.

I want my husband to say something to them one time so they get the point and won’t expect to see me in the future. Any words of wisdom?

ON THE OUTS IN FLORIDA

DEAR ON THE OUTS: I do not think you should burden your husband by expecting him to be the bearer of that message. If his brother or sister-in-law asks where you are, he should tell them you won’t be coming. And if they ask why, he should say, “Ask HER.” THAT would be the time to convey your message “one time only.”

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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DEAR ABBY

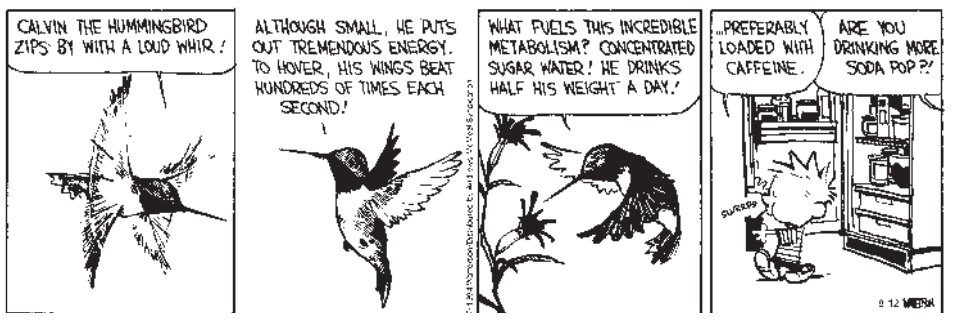
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN THE HUMMINGBIRD ZIPS BY WITH A LOUD WHIR!
ALTHOUGH SMALL, HE PUTS OUT TREMENDOUS ENERGY. TO HOVER, HIS WINGS BEAT HUNDREDS OF TIMES EACH SECOND!
WHAT FUELS THIS INCREDIBLE METABOLISM? CONCENTRATED SUGAR WATER! HE DRINKS HALF HIS WEIGHT A DAY!
...PREFERABLY LOADED WITH CAFFEINE.
ARE YOU DRINKING MORE SODA POP?!
SLURP

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW'S THE COFFEE COMPANY?
I SENT THE BLEND OFF FOR TESTING AND CERTIFICATION.
COULD TAKE A WHILE.
SNIFF
SO WE CAN GET OFF OF THIS STORYLINE?
SURE! GO NUTS.
9-12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TSK TSK... LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A FOOT FUNGUS.
THEN WHY DO YOU HAVE A TONGUE DEPRESSOR IN MY MOUTH?
BECAUSE I'M STILL WAITING FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE TO INVENT A TOE DEPRESSOR.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Swedish auto
5 Chest muscle
8 Pedestal
12 Hit song by Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello
14 Botch up
15 Place for refuse
16 Wild revelry
17 Ultra-modernist
18 Smoothie fruit
20 Finnish phone brand
23 "So —" ("Amen")
24 Inventor's inspiration
25 Up-to-date
28 Automaton, for short
29 Lollygag
30 Sashimi fish
32 Actress Arquette
34 Egg on
35 Newspaper section
36 The ones here
37 Lea
40 Aachen article
41 "Zounds!"
42 Cheese variety
47 — of Sandwich
48 Endless time or space
49 Leg joint
50 Nanny's charge
51 Roof edge

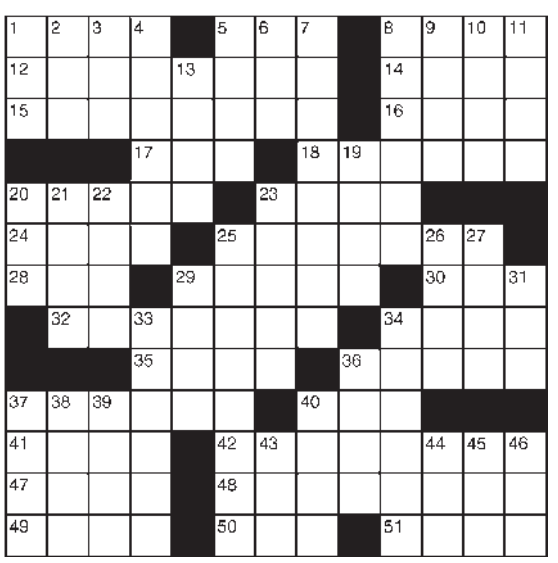
DOWN

1 Former flier
2 — Lingus
3 Actress Gasteyer
4 Croatia neighbor
5 — de gallo
6 JFK info
7 Australian capital
8 "Jane Eyre" author
9 Atmosphere
10 Billboard
11 New Age singer
13 Ostrich kin
19 Ethereal
20 Pen tip
21 Air freshener target
22 Trendy low-carb diet
23 Filmmaker Ken
25 "Looking forward to it!"
26 Scruff
27 Ergo
29 Tropical tuber
31 Rage
33 Bicycle seat
34 Place of prayer
36 Garr of "Tootsie"
37 Timid
38 Novelist Jennifer
39 Bern's river
40 Skilled
43 L-P link
44 Spy org.
45 Off-roader (Abbr.)
46 Science guru Bill

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	T		C	H	A	B		D	A	S	H
E	G	O		A	E	R	O		E	T	T	U
T	O	P	H	A	S	S			S	C	U	L
		O	R	A	I			H	I	N	D	U
S	P	I	A	T		T	W	I	G			
A	R	O	D		G	R	E	E	N	T	E	A
P	F	G		M	A	I	I	S		I	M	S
S	P	Y	N	O	V	E	L		S	P	I	T
			I	D	E	S		R	E	P	R	O
I	R	U	C	E			J	O	E	Y		
H	O	T	E		B	L	A	C	K	T	O	P
F	T	A	T		Y	O	R	K		C	R	F
A	C	H	Y		E	T	S	Y		P	G	A

Last Friday's answer 8-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Imani Hakim, 31; Cara Delevingne, 32; Pete Sampras, 53; Peter Krause, 59.

Happy Birthday: Take charge, do your best to rectify pending problems and turn any negatives you encounter into positives. Change begins with how you use your skills, offer help and participate in everyday life. Smart details entail observation, planning and calling on your integrity and experience to do what's right. Choose your battles wisely and offer your support with caution. Your numbers are 8, 15, 19, 27, 31, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Control legalities, investments and health issues. What you discover will point you in a positive direction and encourage you to do what's best for you. Don't hesitate to proceed once you have backed your feelings with facts and figures. A change will be enlightening and prosperous. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* It's up to you to choose what's next. Size up your situation, relationships and what matters most, then initiate change. Don't ponder over things you can't change; take flight and make your intentions count and your dreams come true. Love and romance are favored. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Mark your territory and gauge what's possible. Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Put your energy into getting ahead, expanding your knowledge, fact-checking and ensuring you take care of every detail before proceeding. Let your intuition guide you; caution and accuracy will lead to success. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Dedicate more time to self-improvement, health and well-being. Consider your options and financial position, and invest more time and money in how you live. Strive to ease stress and to live a healthy lifestyle. Children, family and socializing will require a disciplined attitude and patience. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep tabs on what others do and how much you spend. Generosity will lead to trouble if you insist on giving more than you've got emotionally, physically or financially. Protect against those trying to take advantage of your kindness. Learn to say no. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Research is your best friend. Take the time to investigate your options and to implement what's practical, safe and within your means. Feel free to make last-minute alterations or head in a different direction if it suits your needs. Do what feels right, regardless of peer pressure. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Examine what others do, and make changes accordingly. Staying on top of situations will lead to opportunities. Timing is essential, and letting your intuition guide you will pay off. A domestic change looks promising. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stay active, social and in touch with the latest lifestyle and technological advancements. A well-informed mind will help you make better decisions and direct you to use your skills accordingly. Forward-thinking will put you in a leadership position. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Taking on too much too fast will lead to confusion and mistakes. Align yourself with experts and make decisions that encompass opportunities, not struggles. Maintain control and work secretively to deter others from stealing your ideas or talking you into unnecessary additions. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll get the boost you need from the people you align yourself with today. Discuss your options, costs and prospects with someone who has experience and expertise in areas that perplex you. Refuse to let your ego be your downfall. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your energy into something that matters to you. Whether it's making your surroundings more functional or resolving domestic issues that can lead to trouble, take the initiative, be willing to compromise and build an environment that encourages equality, interaction, peace and love. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Adjust your day to suit your needs. Refuse to let outside interference ruin your plans or threaten your mental, physical or emotional well-being. Be resourceful, put a plan in place and refuse to overspend to buy someone's attention or favor. Follow your gut and walk away from adversity. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are resourceful, impatient and perplexing. You are sensitive and caring.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8	9		5	6				
4		1		3		6		
	3	6		9	1	5		
	4				6		5	9
		9		5		2	3	
3	6	5		2	9			4
5			7	4			6	8
6	8	7		1		4		3
					3			

Difficulty: ★ 8/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

5	3	6	9	2	8	4	1	7
7	1	9	5	4	3	2	8	6
8	4	2	1	7	6	3	9	5
6	9	5	4	3	7	1	2	8
1	7	8	2	9	5	6	4	3
4	2	3	6	8	1	5	7	9
2	6	1	8	5	9	7	3	4
9	5	7	3	1	4	8	6	2
3	8	4	7	6	2	9	5	1

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/9

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HAPLOTYPES ARE INTERESTING Solution: 7 letters

H	E	R	E	D	I	T	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	S
U	N	L	I	Y	G	O	L	O	N	U	M	M	I	E
M	E	D	I	C	A	L	T	I	L	P	S	N	N	Q
A	T	L	Y	L	I	M	A	F	A	N	G	I	H	U
N	W	A	G	R	O	U	P	T	N	L	T	A	E	E
O	O	N	O	Ⓐ	Ⓝ	Ⓓ	T	O	E	D	N	H	R	N
I	R	R	L	R	E	E	I	M	A	I	A	C	I	C
T	K	E	O	E	R	T	O	M	A	P	I	C	T	E
A	H	T	I	N	U	S	S	T	G	L	R	I	H	N
N	T	A	B	L	O	I	A	E	C	O	A	T	E	I
I	L	P	O	M	N	D	A	C	T	I	V	E	O	E
B	A	V	O	A	L	L	E	L	E	D	D	N	R	T
M	E	R	G	E	N	O	M	E	T	R	E	E	Y	O
O	H	R	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	N	E	G	R	R
C	O	M	M	O	N	O	I	T	A	L	U	P	O	P

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Active, Allele, Biology, Chain, Chromosome, Combination, Common, Data, Diploid, DNA, Evolution, Family, Generation, Genetic, Genome, Group, Health, Heredity, History, Human, Immunology, Inherit, Medical, Network, Organism, Paternal, Pattern, Population, Predict, Protein,

Last Friday's answer : Long Term

The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Curry's late barrage seals another US Olympic men's basketball title

AP
United States' Stephen Curry (4) reacts after winning a men's gold medal basketball game against France at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Paris, France.

PARIS (AP)—Stephen Curry was thinking about this two years ago, after winning his fourth NBA title with the Golden State Warriors. The only thing left for him to win was Olympic gold.

And in the ultimate moment, he made sure that medal would be his.

The U.S. is atop the international men's basketball world once again, after Curry scored 24 points—all on 3-pointers—and led the way to a 98-87 win over France in the final at the Paris Games on Saturday night. It was the fifth consecutive gold medal for the U.S. and the 17th in 20 all-time appearances for the Americans at the games.

"You just stay confident, stay present and don't get rattled by the moment," said Curry, who had 17 3-pointers in his last two games, starting with nine against Serbia to get to the gold-medal game.

Added U.S. coach Steve Kerr: "Steph earned this."

Curry made four 3-pointers in the final 2:43, including the one that just sealed the win with 1:19 remaining. It put the U.S. up 93-84 and he skipped down the court letting out a yell, shaking his jersey so everyone could see the "USA" across the front.

If that wasn't enough, one more followed with about 30 seconds left—with the "go to sleep" move where he puts his hands on the side of his face.

Good night. Game over. Gold won. Again.

"For me to get a gold medal is insane, and I thank God for the opportunity to experience it," Curry said.

Kevin Durant—the first four-time men's gold medalist in Olympic basketball history—scored 15 for the Americans, as did Devin Booker. LeBron James, wearing metallic gold shoes that needed no explanation, scored 14 for the U.S. as he won his fourth Olympic medal and third gold.

"Super humbled that I can still play this game," James said. "Played at a high level, played with 11 other great players and a great coaching staff and went on and did it for our country. It was a great moment around."

For the second consecutive Olympics, the French had to watch the Americans hold up U.S. flags in celebration after the title game. The French lost to the U.S. 87-82 in Tokyo three years ago, and this one was down to the final minutes.

That is, until Curry took over.

"I think we might be the only team in the world whose fans are ashamed of them if they get a silver medal," said Kerr, the Golden State coach whose two-summer run with the U.S. ends with a 21-3 record and Olympic gold — 11-0 this summer. "That's the pressure that we face. But our players, and you saw Steph, they love the pressure. They appreciate this atmosphere and they were fantastic."

Victor Wembanyama, the NBA Rookie of the Year for San Antonio in his first Olympic final, was brilliant for France, scoring 26 points — the second-most ever against the U.S. in a gold-medal game, one behind the 27 that Drazen Dalipagic scored for Yugoslavia in 1976.

"I'm learning," Wembanyama said. "And I'm worried for the opponents in a couple of years."

Wembanyama covered his face in a towel afterward as the Americans celebrated. Guerschon Yabusele scored 20 for the hosts.

"For sure, it's a disappointment because we expected we could do it," France coach Vincent Collet said. "But we have to recognize at the end that they are better. We are very close ... When they make fantastic shots, that's the difference."

The U.S. lead was 14 early in the third, looking poised to pull away. But the offense quickly went cold and when Evan Fournier connected on a 3-pointer with 3:05 left in the quarter the lead was down to 65-59 after a 12-4 run by the hosts.

And with a chance to go up double digits headed to the fourth, a big U.S. blunder gave France another jolt of momentum. Anthony Edwards and Durant got their signals crossed on a pass that led to a turnover, Nando De Colo scored to beat the buzzer and the U.S. lead was only 72-66 going into the final 10 minutes.

It got as close as three. No closer, thanks to Curry. He hit four 3-pointers in a span of 2:12, the last one of them a bit of the circus variety, and they all immediately went into Olympic lore.

"A big shot to put us up six. That kind of settled everything," Curry said. "And then the rhythm, the avalanche came, and thankfully the other three went in. That was an unbelievable moment. I've been blessed to play basketball at a high level for a very long time. This ranks very high in terms of excitement and the sense of relief, getting to the finish line."

It was the eighth time in Olympic history—and Sunday's women's final between the U.S. and France will mark the ninth—hat the home team got to play for basketball gold.

Home teams are now 5-3 in those games, 2-1 on the men's side. The U.S. men and women both won in 1984 and 1996; the women of the Soviet Union won in 1980, while Australia's women lost to the U.S. in 2000 and Japan's women also lost to the U.S. at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

For James, it was one more thing for the neverending list that is his legacy. For Durant, it was history with four golds. For Booker, Anthony Davis, Jayson Tatum and Bam Adebayo, it was a second gold. For Jrue Holiday, it was a second gold to match his wife—soccer great Lauren Cheney Holiday—for the family lead. For Derrick White, Tyrese Haliburton, Joel Embiid and Edwards, it was the first Olympic title.

"This has been an amazing experience, a beautiful experience," Durant said.

US wins women's soccer, adds 3 golds in track

PARIS (AP)—Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Gabby Thomas led the Americans to a 4.23-second win in the women's 4x400 relay in a huge night at the track Saturday at the Paris Olympics..

The gold medalists in the 400 hurdles and 200 meters took care of legs two and three for the United States, handing a 30-meter lead to Alexis Holmes, who didn't lose any ground.

The U.S. finished in 3 minutes, 15.27 seconds, only .1 short of the world record.

The American men won gold in the same race in a much closer finish about 15 minutes earlier.

Rai Benjamin held off Letsile Tebogo on the anchor leg to give the men an Olympic-record time. Benjamin added this Olympic title to the one he claimed in the 400-meter hurdles a night earlier and prevented 200-meter champion Tebogo from giving Botswana another triumph over the Americans.

It was Tebogo, the 21-year-old sprinting sensation, who stole the spotlight—and the gold—from the U.S. in the 200 on Thursday, relegating Kenny Bednarek to silver and Noah Lyles, who tested positive for COVID-19, to bronze.

The U.S. quartet of Christopher Bailey, Vernon Norwood, Bryce Deadmon and Benjamin completed the four laps in 2 minutes, 54.43 seconds, nearly a second faster than the American 4x400 team ran at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. And Saturday's time was just .14 seconds off the world record set by the United States in 1993.

"Team USA have always had dominance over the 4x4," Bailey said, "and we just wanted to keep it going."

Russell wins hurdles in photo finish

In the hurdles, Masia Russell beat Cyrena Samba-Mayela, whose silver medal marks the first of any color for France at the Olympic track meet.

In a close-as-can-be race down the straightaway, Russell finished in 12.33 seconds but had to wait 15 seconds to learn she had beaten the Frenchwoman by .01.

Defending champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn, who competes for Puerto Rico, was another .02 back for bronze in front of a boisterous crowd the included French President Emmanuel Macron and Mick Jagger.

No cheers were louder than those for Samba-Mayela, who ended a shutout for the host country.

"I want to celebrate with the French public because they supported me and pushed me throughout all these Olympic Games," Samba-Mayela said.

Lin Yu-ting wins boxing gold

Boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan won a gold medal in the women's featherweight division Saturday night, following Imane Khelif's lead a day earlier with a glittering response to the intense scrutiny faced by both fighters inside the ring and around the world over misconceptions about their womanhood.

Lin beat Julia Szeremeta of Poland 5:0 in the final at Roland Garros, capping her four-fight unbeaten run through Paris by ensuring that Taiwan's first Olympic boxing medal is golden.

"I feel incredible," Lin said after her fourth consecutive 5:0 win. "I want to thank everyone who has supported me, and thanks to my team and everyone in Taiwan. They gave me the power."

On Friday, Khelif won Algeria's first women's boxing medal with a decisive victory in her own final, beating Yang Liu of China.

Both fighters persevered through an avalanche of criticism and uninformed speculation about their sex during the Paris tournament to deliver the best performances of their boxing careers. Lin won all four of her bouts 5:0, even if she didn't win every round on every judge's card as Khelif did.

Ko's gold puts her in LPGA Hall of Fame

Lydia Ko completed her Olympic medal collection with the most valuable of them all, a gold medal that puts the 27-year-old Kiwi into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

"I knew the next 18 holes were going to be some of the most important 18 holes of my life," Ko said. "I knew being in this position was once in a lifetime."

Ko built a five-shot lead on the back nine at Le Golf National as her closest pursuers all collapsed, and then had to hang on until the very end. Her lead down to one, Ko made a 7-foot birdie putt for a 1-under 71 and a two-shot victory.

Ko won the silver medal in Rio de Janeiro. She won the bronze in Tokyo. The missing one turned out to be more valuable than its weight in gold. The victory pushed her career total to 27 points for the LPGA Hall of Fame, one of the strictest criteria for any shrine.

China sweeps diving gold medals

Cao Yuan defended his title in the men's 10-meter platform and gave China an unprecedented sweep of the diving gold medals at the Paris Games.

The Big Red Machine won all eight golds at the Olympic Aquatics Centre, most of them with dominating victories.

That wasn't the case in the final diving event of the Games. With teammate Yang Hao having an uncharacteristically poor day and Rikuto Tamai of Japan keeping the pressure on until a botched dive in the next-to-last round, the burden of completing the sweep fell entirely on Cao's slender shoulders.

"I believe in myself," Cao said through an interpreter. "I am very, very confident."

Guardians beat Twins 2-1 to end seven-game losing streak

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Steven Kwan homered on the second pitch of the game and Bo Naylor also went deep for the Cleveland Guardians in a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Saturday night that stopped their season-long seven-game losing streak and created some space in the narrowing AL Central race.

Cleveland lengthened the lead on defending division champion Minnesota to 2 1/2 games by ending its longest skid since April 22-28, 2022.

Gavin Williams (2-4) gave the Guardians six strong innings on just the right night, allowing one run on four hits and no walks with three strikeouts in the best of his eight starts this year.

Kwan, the All-Star left fielder who has been a consistent catalyst in the leadoff spot, smacked a fastball from Simeon Woods Richardson into the seats above right-center field for his 11th home run that matches his combined total from his first two seasons in the major leagues.

AP

Cleveland Guardians' Steven Kwan celebrates his solo home run in the dugout during the first inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Minneapolis.

YANKEES 8, RANGERS 0, 1ST GAMERANGERS 9, YANKEES 4, 2ND GAME

NEW YORK (AP) - Carlos RodOn scattered three hits over 5 2/3 innings and Austin Wells drove in four runs as New York beat Texas in the first game of a doubleheader.

Corey Seager homered and rookie Cody Bradford pitched five strong innings in the second game as Texas beat New York to earn a doubleheader split.

Rookie Wyatt Langford had two hits and stole a base, and Adolis Garc√≠a finished the doubleheader with five hits and an RBI as Texas snapped a three-game skid.

In the opener, Carlos Rodon scattered three hits over 5 2/3 innings and Austin Wells drove in four runs in the Yankees' 8-0 win. Aaron Judge drove in his major league-leading 105th run and reached base four times. Adolis Garcia and Josh Jung had two hits apiece for Texas.

ATHLETICS 1, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP)—Osvaldo Bido and three relievers combined on a two-hitter, Brent Rooker hit his 29th home run and Oakland beat Toronto for their ninth shutout of the season.

Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. singled in the first inning, extending his hitting streak to 22 games and matching the longest streak of his career. Guerrero also had a 22-game hitting streak in 2022. His current streak is the longest active streak in the major leagues.

Guerrero went 1 for 4. He struck out swinging in the ninth with the tying run at first base.

GIANTS 3, TIGERS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Brett Wisely hit a two-run double in the fifth inning and San Francisco rebounded after being no-hit for four innings, beating Detroit.

After being held without a hit for four innings by Detroit's Alex Faedo and Brant Hurter (0-1), the Giants opened the fifth with consecutive singles by Mike Yastrzemski and Jerar Encarnacion before Wisely drove in two runs with a double down the right-field line. Heliot Ramos followed with an RBI single, scoring Wisely.

Giants right-hander Logan Webb (10-8) tossed seven sharp innings and won his third straight start. Webb allowed one run on four hits and a walk while striking out eight. He lowered his ERA to 3.32.

ASTROS 5, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez belted two home runs and drove in three runs, rookie right-hander Spencer Arrighetti struck out a season-high 13 over seven innings and Houston beat Boston.

Zach Dezenzo hit his first major-league homer and Alex Bregman added a solo shot for the AL West-leading Astros, who won their second straight over Boston and fourth straight overall.

Danny Jansen and Masataka Yoshida each had a solo homer for the Red Sox, who lost a series for the first time in their last four.

In recording his 19th career multi-homer game, Alvarez improved his lofty career numbers in Fenway Park, where he's batting .463 with seven homers and 19 RBIs. He entered the day leading all AL hitters with a .354 average in road games.

PADRES 9, MARLINS 8, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Luis Arraez had two hits and drove in three runs, including a go-ahead RBI groundout in the 10th inning, and San Diego beat Miami.

David Peralta singled twice and doubled for the Padres, who have won 16 of their last 18 games.

Ha-Seong Kim drew a leadoff walk against reliever John McMillon (0-1) to start the winning rally. Kyle Higashioka's sacrifice bunt advanced Kim and automatic runner Tyler Wade before Luis Arraez hit a soft grounder to first baseman Jonah Bride that scored Wade.

Robert Suarez (7-1) pitched a perfect ninth for the win, with 11 of his 15 pitches reaching 100 mph.

BREWERS 1, REDS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Rhys Hoskins hit a 405-foot home run in the eighth inning to lift Milwaukee to their fifth straight win and their ninth straight series win over Cincinnati.

Hoskins' 20th homer came off reliever Tony Santillan (0-1), giving him a career-high 14-game hitting streak.

Milwaukee rookie Tobias Myers gave up three hits over 7 1/3 innings and struck out a career-high nine batters. Seven of his strikeouts were against the first three batters in the Reds order, Jonathan India, Elly De La Cruz and Tyler Stephenson.

Cincinnati's Nick Martinez gave up one hit and struck out seven in seven innings, his longest outing of the season. He pitched five shutout innings in his previous start, at Miami, his eighth start of the season.

NATIONALS 5, ANGELS 4, 10 INNINGS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jose Tena hit a game-winning RBI single in the 10th inning hours after being called up from the minor leagues, and Washington defeated Los Angeles to earn their second walk-off victory in as many days.

James Wood homered and Alex Call had his fifth consecutive multi-hit game for Washington, which has won back-to-back games since sinking to a season-high 12 games under .500 on Thursday.

It was the Nationals' third walk-off victory and 31st come-from-behind victory of the year.

Zach Neto smashed his 17th home run of the season as part of a three-hit night for the Angels.

ROYALS 8, CARDINALS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. drove in three runs and Michael Wacha struck out six in seven innings to lead Kansas City to a win over St. Louis.

Maikel Garcia had an RBI single, Witt added an RBI triple and Salvador Perez hit a two-run, opposite field homer to right in the Royals' four-run seventh inning.

The victory clinched the season season for Kansas City for the first time since 2016. The teams split the two-game series.

Wacha (9-6) gave up two runs on five hits with two walks. He has allowed two runs or fewer in eight of his 10 starts at Kauffman Stadium this season. Lucas Erceg recorded his fourth save.

CUBS 3, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Miguel Amaya delivered a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning, Dansby Swanson had two hits hours after his wife won an Olympic gold medal, and the Chicago Cubs beat the crosstown White Sox to complete a two-game sweep.

Nico Hoerner walked leading off the eighth against Chad Kuhl (0-2) and took second on Swanson's single. Pete Crow-Armstrong moved the runners up with a sacrifice bunt, and Amaya lined a two-run single, giving the Cubs a 3-1 lead and sending them to their eighth win in 10 games.

Swanson capped an unforgettable day by singling twice, giving him 1,001 career hits, and scoring a run. He did it hours after his wife, Mallory, scored the lone goal as the U.S. women's national team beat Brazil for the Olympic gold medal.

ORIOLES 7, RAYS 5

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Ramon Urias hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning, Ryan Mountcastle drove in three runs and AL East-leading Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

Baltimore took a one-game lead over the Yankees in the division after New York split a doubleheader with Texas.

The Orioles are 8-1 against the Rays this season.

Baltimore raced to a 4-0 lead after two inning, but squandered that advantage. Urias hit a two-run homer off Colin Poche (1-2) in a three-run eighth inning that put the Orioles up 7-4. Poche left after Mountcastle's RBI single went off his leg.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, PHILLIES 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Jake McCarthy hit two home runs, Ketel Marte got his 30th of the season before leaving with a left ankle contusion and Arizona beat Philadelphia.

Corbin Carroll also homered for Arizona, which has won 14 of its last 17 games to move into a wild-card spot and within range of the Dodgers in the National League West.

Arizona starter Zac Gallen also departed early after moving awkwardly in attempting to field a ground ball in the fifth inning. There was no immediate word on his injury, but the ace right-hander missed a month earlier this season with a right hamstring injury.

BRAVES 11, ROCKIES 8

DENVER (AP)—Matt Olson had two homers and a career-high six RBIs, Marcell Ozuna and Jorge Soler homered, and Atlanta broke a six-game losing streak with a victory over Colorado.

Olson hit a two-run homer off Angel Chivilli (0-1) to break an 8-8 tie in the seventh inning and Soler added a solo shot in the eighth to help the Braves avoid their longest losing streak in nearly eight years (Aug. 13-20, 2016).

Sam Hilliard had a homer, two doubles and a career-high five RBIs for the Rockies, who have lost 10 of the last 11 against the Braves at Coors Field.

Ozuna homered for the third straight game, and Olson had his second two-homer game in 10 games after hitting two against Milwaukee on July 31. Soler had three hits and three RBIs and has homered in two straight.

DODGERS 4, PIRATES 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gavin Lux continued his resurgence with three RBIs, Teoscar Hernandez hit a home run and Los Angeles got past standout rookie Paul Skenes and Pittsburgh.

Hernandez had three hits for the Dodgers, who won for the fifth time in their last seven games with their only two defeats in the stretch coming to the National League-best Philadelphia Phillies.

The Dodgers won despite losing rookie right-hander River Ryan after 4 2/3 scoreless innings because of right forearm tightness.

Skenes (6-2) gave up a career-high four runs on six hits over six innings with one walk and eight strikeouts.

MARINERS 4, METS 0

SEATTLE (AP)—Logan Gilbert threw seven scoreless innings and combined with two relievers on Seattle's major league-best 13th shutout of the season as they beat New York.

Gilbert was dominant allowing just three hits and followed what Bryce Miller did in the series opener on Friday when he threw six shutout innings. Gilbert allowed a leadoff single to Francisco Lindor then didn't give up another hit until Lindor's single in the sixth inning.

Gilbert (7-8) struck out six and walked only one batter to pick up his first victory since July 9. It was his fifth start of the season throwing seven or more scoreless innings, the most in the majors.

NMI to host Oceania Junior Championships

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association is bringing the VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2025 to the NMI.

Badminton Oceania, which is the continental governing body for badminton across Oceania and has 17 member associations, in a recent new release, has announced the NMBA and the NMI's hosting of the annual VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships from June 8 to 14, 2025. This latest announcement came less than a month after the NMBA successfully hosted back-to-back Badminton World Federation-sanctioned tournaments on the islands—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open and the Dove Saipan International. In the same news release, Badminton Oceania named New Zealand as the host of the VICTOR Oceania Championships 2025, which is an open division competition. The VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships are for players in the U19 age group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School's Genelyn Lansangan is seen here competing in last month's Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Next year, youth players like Lansangan will have an opportunity to play in the VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2025 as the event will be hosted on Saipan in June.

"It is with great delight that we can announce these two hosts, who will both deliver quality experiences for the players," Badminton Oceania chief executive officer Julie Carrel said.

"We had a goal of taking the Junior Championships to one of our Pacific countries so when Merlie (NMBA president Merlie Tolentino) came to us asking 'what else could NMBA host,' this was the perfect opportunity. This is the first time we have split the Open and Junior Oceania Championships which will also enable some of the juniors to also play the Open tournament in February and gain some valuable world ranking points. I know that every player going to the NMI will have an experience they will remember for a long time," Carrel added.

For NMBA's part, Tolentino said hosting another high-level competition is an honor for the association and the host nation. It also supports the NMBA's efforts in making NMI badminton a key player in the region and bringing the sport closer to local players and other stakeholders, particularly among the youth.

"Our interscholastic program is growing and although we have seen significant improvement in their skill level during our regular/local competitions, the NMBA believes they could do more and deserve more given a chance. This (VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2025) is one of those opportunities to improve further as they are pitted against promising junior players in the region and experience different playing styles," Tolentino said.

The VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2025 will have both the team relay and individual competitions, which means more opportunities to play for local youth players. The NMI had been to the Oceania Championships before, but only in the open competition and not in the U19 juniors division.

The tournament, according to Tolentino, will also help the NMBA continue to build local capacity, as they will be able to train line judges and umpires that will officiate the games.

"We are excited to welcome everyone to the Northern Mariana Islands for the VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2025. Hosting this event is a great honor, and we eagerly anticipate showcasing the exceptional talent and sportsmanship of the participants. We are committed to making this a memorable and successful event and look forward to seeing many people on Saipan in June next year," said Tolentino.

The NMBA president also said that the VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2025 is a great addition to the list of events that the association is organizing to utilize badminton and its related activities as a platform for promoting sports tourism in the NMI. Last month, the NMBA brought over 200 players, coaches, and guests to the NMI when it hosted the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open and the Dove Saipan International. Majority of the players and coaches stayed on the island for nearly two weeks, as games ran from July 2 to 13. ***(PR)***

OTHER

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was in the Olympics, it was "Pretty amazing. There were a lot of different countries, sports, and people around...Being in the athletes' village with the best athletes in the world [was the best experience]!" he said

On the gear he got for his Olympic stint, Sakovich said it wasn't a lot since he represented Guam. "I think a few shirts, a warm up, and open ceremony outfit." He added that the beddings at the athletes' village were also OK.

After the 1988 Olympics. Sakovich went on to swim for the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. During his NCAA career, he received seven All-American honors.

Later in his swimming career, he represented the United States in international competitions like the 1995 Pan American Games. He went on to become the head coach and aquatics director at the Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida from 2015 until 2018, before becoming the associate head coach of LSU in 2021.

Tavares, meanwhile, competed in luge, a small one- or two-person sled, in the 1992 Winters Olympics, coincidentally also held in France in Albertville. He and his doubles partner finished ninth overall.

However, aside from being an Olympic athlete in 1992, Tavares has also served as the U.S. luge and bobsled team's head coach for seven more editions of quadrennial event.

"As an athlete I competed in 1992 in the sport of luge, yes, a winter sport. But I have also have been to seven Olympic games as a coach or head coach. So, 1998 bobsled coach, 2002 women's bobsled head coach, 2006 women's bobsled head coach, 2010 bobsled coach, 2014 luge coach, 2018 luge head coach, and 2022 luge team leader. And I will be going to France to support the U.S. team at the Paralympics at the high-performance center."

As for qualifying for the 1992 Olympics, Tavares said he had to compete on the national team for four years and actually finished third in singles for luge before winning the Olympic trials in doubles.

On his Olympic experience as a then 28-year-old, he said the best part of it was "having my sister and sister-in-law watch me compete."

He also shared some memories from the athletes' village and actual competition when he said, "The food was amazing, beds were small and they give you so much and they make sure everything was fitted to you...It's amazing how everyone is like a family. From speed skating to figure skating, skiing. You see all the top athletes."

Born in Guam, Tavares moved to Saipan for his formative years. He left the island in the late 1970s after his father, who worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior, was transferred to Tracy, California.

"Growing up on an island less than 100 feet from the beach. I look back and what a way to grow up. I wish my kids could experience it. It was a true big family. The Sablan family especially David 'Uncle Dave' was my dad's best friend and really took care of us," he shared about his overall experience on the island.

CASEY

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is "better now that I have recovered from my injury. I am more confident."

Her training regimen is daily except for Sundays. "Monday, Wednesday, and Friday I go to the gym in the morning and then Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, I train at the track," she said. "I train alone, which I don't really like because I need someone there to push me but either way, I try my best to push myself. My coach is coach [Elias Rangamar] and I appreciate him for waking up every morning to coach me."

As to what she looks forward to, she said, "When I get there, I'm looking forward to meeting new people and going sightseeing, and especially, trying their food."

The heats for the 100m are set for the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 27, with the semis set for the afternoon of the same day, and the finals set for the next day.

3X3 BASH

From page 16

able to gel with them," said Lee.

With the tryouts, he said, "We're seeing they're basic skill levels, their footwork, free throws, being able to shoot. Then we're going to jump straight to their conditioning, then a scrimmage just to see their chemistry—if they're able to adapt and play with each other."

He said, with the FIBA 3x3 format and played on a larger scale with all the other Pacific Islands, the competition is a whole different breed. He said they are looking for players who are able to play intensely within just a short spurt of 10 minutes, and who are able to play every position and are able to help each other out.

"From there, we're going to pick 10 players, then the top six to advance to the program—same as the 5v5 national team. Then, we'll put together the training regimen throughout the remainder of the year," said Lee.

In addition to their on-island training, Lee said there is an opportunity for players to join a FIBA 3x3 program at the end of September in Queensland, Australia. It'll be a one-week program in which they'll send one referee, one coach, and four men and women players.

As the Mini Games competition is for 18-23-year-olds, and with most of the national team over 23 years, Lee said that the only experienced players for the men between 18-23 are 18-year-old Chioni Dela Cruz and 22-year-old Airson Atan—who were both in the 2024 Micronesian Games national basketball team.

"So, heading into the Games, players would need chemistry and confidence. The Micro Games were rough—it's a physical game—and even more so with 3x3. When it comes to 3x3, it's the first to 21 points and it's a very fast-paced game. So, if you're not conditioned and your mind is not prepared, then it might not be for you," he said. "This is the Pacific Mini Games with Australia and other Pacific countries. We can't train height so now it just comes down to can they help each other? Can they understand how to box out and be more physical? So that's why the veteran players like Jack [Lizama], Coby Santos, and others are here because they will be their bullies and toughen them up. I'm looking forward to that and let's see how it goes."

For Lumabi's part, she said, "I was hoping for more girls to come out, but I do see some new faces. That's the goal of the program—to get more girls out and new faces means growth."

She said she liked how a lot of young girls came to try out because she said if they start off with playing 3x3, then they transition to 5v5, it's so much easier to coach.

With the tryouts, she said, "I like what I see… I love the aggressiveness because 3x3 is very physical. If you're not aggressive, you won't be able to play 3x3 the way it's supposed to be played… I like that we have girls that can take contact and are physical."

For more information on the Back 2 School 3x3 Bash and the tryouts, contact nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	48	.593	–
New York	69	49	.585	1
Boston	61	54	.530	7½
Tampa Bay	58	58	.500	11
Toronto	54	63	.462	15½
Central Division				
Cleveland	68	49	.581	–
Minnesota	65	51	.560	2½
Kansas City	65	53	.551	3½
Detroit	55	63	.466	13½
Chicago	28	91	.235	41
West Division				
Houston	61	55	.526	–
Seattle	62	56	.525	–
Texas	55	62	.470	6½
Los Angeles	51	66	.436	10½
Oakland	49	69	.415	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	69	48	.590	–
Atlanta	61	55	.526	7½
New York	61	56	.521	8
Washington	54	64	.458	15½
Miami	43	75	.364	26½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	67	49	.578	–
St. Louis	60	58	.508	8
Chicago	59	60	.496	9½
Pittsburgh	56	60	.483	11
Cincinnati	56	61	.479	11½
West Division				
Los Angeles	68	49	.581	–
San Diego	66	52	.559	2½
Arizona	65	53	.551	3½
San Francisco	61	58	.513	8
Colorado	43	75	.364	25½

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Other Olympians from the CNMI

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The CNMI may not be part of the Olympic family and thus not able to send athletes to the 2024 Paris Olympics, but that hasn't prevented athletes from the U.S. territory to partake in the Games.

Just this past Olympics, Filomenaleonisa Iakopo carried the American Samoa flag to the quadrennial event and ran the 100m sprint.

But even before the recent Kagman High School graduate, two other former Northern Marianas residents partook in the Olympics—Jon Sakovich in the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics and William "Bill" Tavares in the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics.

Representing neighboring Guam, where he went to high school, the then 18-year-old Sakovich was part of the island's national swimming team and competed in the 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 400 m freestyle, 1,500m freestyle, 200m freestyle, and 400m individual medley in the Olympics.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jon Sakovich, left, poses with, from left, his late mother Jean, sister Anneka, and father Bill at the Seoul Olympic Stadium.

The now 54-year-old associate head coach of the Louisiana State University swimming team said since the CNMI can't send athletes to the Olympics he swam for Guam, where he had residency, and was one of the fastest swimmers in the U.S. territory.

It turns out being eligible to swim for Guam was the easy part as Sakovich said qualifying for the 1988 Olympics "was not easy."

On his experience once he

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

William "Bill" Tavares competed in luge in the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jon Sakovich is now the associate head coach of the Louisiana State University Tigers swimming team.

3x3 Bash from Aug. 31-Sep. 2; tryouts held for PMG 3x3 team

LEIGH GASES

Azzy Fatialofa, right, maneuvers past Kina Rangamar during their 3x3 tryouts scrimmage last Aug. 1 at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is hosting a Back 2 School 3x3 Bash from Saturday, Aug. 31 to Monday, Sept. 2 at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The time is yet to be announced.

There are two divisions for this bash—U17 and U14 boys.

The NMIBF also hosted tryouts for a 23U men's and 23U women's 3x3 basketball team for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau last Aug. 1 and 2 also at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

A group of men and women interested in making the cut showed up and were put to the test with drills and scrimmages over the course of two days. The tryouts are ongoing for the rest of the year with more dates and tourneys to be announced at later dates.

The women's group were handled by NMIBF's Marlene Lumabi and Lia Rangamar, while the men's group was led by coach Rufino Aguon, along with some members of the NMI Men's National Basketball Team.

NMIBF president James Lee was present at the tryout on Aug. 1 and said in an interview that the turnout was great. "A lot of the men came out and we were hoping to see more females as well," he said.

He also said that three off-island players for the women's team are interested in competing for the Mini Games. They are Alliyah Fernandez and Won sisters Ky'Sonna and E'anna. "They are interested so that's a big plus for us. If we are really able to get their commitment, I personally don't have to worry about them on conditioning, IQ, and skills level—they should be there. Now it's just a matter of finding one more person to be

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LEIGH GASES

NMI sprinter Casey Cruz sprints the final meters of the last leg of the 4x100m relay during the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last June.

Casey Cruz to compete in U20 World Athletics Champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI's up-and-coming sprinter Casey Cruz is set to lace up her running shoes for the World Athletics U20 Championships in Lima, Peru that will be held from Aug. 26-31.

The 18-year-old had just come off an outstanding performance at the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands where she reset her personal best record in the 100m.

Despite competing through an injury, she pushed through and set her PB at 12.63 seconds—which she is setting out to break in Peru.

The Saipan Southern High School Class of 2024 graduate had a busy track season and missed her graduation ceremony because she competed in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji, just a week before the Micro Games last June.

She also competed in the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands as a senior in high school.

For the upcoming competition that will be held at the National Stadium of Peru, Cruz said, "I'm honestly really excited to compete there. I got the opportunity to represent the NMI out there and I will. I get to go against other countries which I know will push me to do my very best."

Coming off an ankle injury she suffered last May, she said that heading into the championships, her body

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